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PLO OFFICIAL ACCUSES IRAQIS OF PROVOCATIONS

JN0819402Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1800 GMT 8 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] An official information source in the PLO has stated the following: Once again a senior Iraqi official comes out with statements to cover up for the bullets of treachery which the Iraqi rulers have directed against the revolution's cadres and PLO representatives abroad, in an attempt to wash his hands of the blood of our strugglers and clean the slate of the Iraqi rulers, which is stained with the crimes of murder and Iraqi rashness, through prevarications, lies and distortion of facts.

Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi information minister [title as heard], is trying to make people believe that the Iraqi rulers' quarrel with the PLO is a political one which began 5 years ago. The truth is that this quarrel dates back to the September massacres in Jordan when the Iraqi regime abetted and participated in the slaughtering of the Palestinian revolution and in the subsequent confiscation of the revolution's funds and arms.

Iraq is the only Arab country [words indistinct] deprived the PLO from (?opening) an office [words indistinct]. The Iraqi official is trying to hide behind his own shadow by saying that the differences [between Iraq and the PLO] arise from the proposed political solutions. We believe that the differences concern the continuity of the revolution and the Palestinian rifle which the rulers of Baghdad are trying to (?silence).

It has become customary for the rulers of Iraq to raise the slogan of democratic dialog whenever they decide to wallow in assassinations, oppression and executions. The Palestinian revolution has long experience with the lack of seriousness by the rulers of Iraq in holding any democratic dialog. It is enough to remind them that brother Abu 'Ammar visited Iraq twice in one month to hold a democratic dialog and to convince the Iraqi officials to join the front of confrontation and steadfastness. It had even been agreed that the PLO and PDRY would exert further efforts for this purpose. However, the Iraqi rulers' reply was the treacherous bullets which killed struggler 'Ali Nasir Yasin, right in the wake of the war in the south [of Lebanon], a war which displeased Iraq because the Palestinian revolution and the nationalist forces emerged victorious.

We believe that the consciousness and the responsible conduct of the heroic Arab people in Iraq, and of the cadres and bases of the Ba'th Party in Iraq, are capable of exposing the prevarications and treachery of the rulers of Baghdad in confronting the Palestinian and Arab struggle.

The responsible information source in the PLO continued: The Iraqi official is trying to wash the hands of the Iraqi intelligence organs of the crimes of assassination, claiming that the Abu Nidal group, which is carrying out its criminal activities from Baghdad, is an independent group not under Iraqi trusteeship. We, and the Arab masses and officials, wonder: Can one printed word appear in the Iraqi regime without first being censored and approved by the Iraqi intelligence organs? Can a radio station operating from Baghdad be installed without the blessings and approval of the Iraqi regime? Can the establishment of training camps, the formation of terror groups, and the exportation of criminals and killers take place without the knowledge of the Baghdad rulers?

The dilemma of the rulers of Baghdad is their duality with regard to affiliation and allegiance to the Arab nation's struggle.

'ARAFAT DELIVERS EULOGIES FOR PARIS PLO OFFICIALS

For 'Adnan Hammad

JN082123Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1830 GMT 8 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] Brethren: Under the patronage of brother leader Abu 'Ammar and in the presence of representatives from the Lebanese Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian revolution [words indistinct], a great eulogistic ceremony was held in Burj al-Barajinah camp this afternoon for martyr 'Adnan Hammad, son of the camp and the Palestinian revolution, who fell dead in Paris from the bullets of the traitors of Baghdad. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar delivered an important political speech. Following is a recording of the speech: [begin recording]

They sold Palestine at the cheapest prices. History tells us that famous letter saying that the blood of the defenders had risen to the horses' knees. This was in the days of cavalry and the days of [word indistinct]. But in this age [words indistinct] the rulers of Baghdad. When Jerusalem was lost, only 71 martyrs and [words indistinct]. Hence, I say that Palestine was sold at the cheapest prices. I also said that in order to restore Palestine we will offer to every inch of Palestine and in every inch of Palestine one martyr after another. [applause]

[Words indistinct] my brothers that the martyr falls at the gates of Tel Aviv like Dalal and her comrades, that the martyr falls in the Paris office like 'Izz ad-Din and 'Adnan, or there in Marun ar-Ra's and in defense of [words indistinct] or there in Baghdad. A martyr is a martyr; a martyr is a (?hero); a martyr is a martyr of the nation, of the free people, of heroism and [words indistinct].

Brethren, the road is long and difficult, but there is one fact: This revolution is not the will [words indistinct]; it is the will of the Palestinian people, the Lebanese people, the Arab nation, the free and honorable people [words indistinct] from Cuba to Hanoi, Moscow, Zimbabwe, Aden and everywhere there are free, progressive and democratic people in the whole world. I tell Carter and his followers in the region, whether they speak Hebrew or Arabic that this revolution is a giant and will continue its march until victory, until victory, until victory, until victory. [applause] [end recording].

For Al-Qalaq

JN062026Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] The body of martyr Dr 'Izz ad-Din al-Qalaq, head of the PLO office in Paris who was assassinated by intelligence men of the fascist and murderous leader of the Baghdad regime, was buried today in Damascus in a grand funeral.

President al-Asad's representative Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar made a speech in which he conveyed to the family of the martyr, to the Palestinian revolution command and to our struggling people everywhere the president's deep sorrow over the death of a strong fighter who fought and made painful efforts for a cause which is our own cause and that of the Arab nation. Comrade al-Ahmar said that the criminal hands which assassinated Al-Qalaq will not be able to weaken the cause of the Palestinian people and their revolution, which sprang, grew and was supported primarily in this land.

Yasir 'Arafat also made a speech in which he referred to the decision passed by the Zionist Knesset stipulating the annihilation of the PLO, its forces and the Palestinian people.

He said that this task was assigned to Israel by the United States. The task assigned to the Baghdad rulers is that of liquidating the PLO representatives in the world. These treasonous rulers and the Zionist enemy have entered into the service of the imperialist-Zionist plot. 'Arafat said that nobody will be able to destroy the Palestinian revolution and that the plot led by the Baghdad isolationists coincides with the plot led by the alliance of the Phalangist and the Sham'unist forces in Lebanon against Lebanese legitimacy and against the Arab Deterrent Forces.

Al-Qalaq Funeral

JN0613472 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Aug 78 JN

[Text] The deceased martyr Dr 'Izz ad-Din al-Qalaq, director of the PLO Paris office, was escorted to his final resting place in Damascus today. Martyr 'Izz ad-Din al-Qalaq was assassinated by intelligence organs of the facist regime in Baghdad.

Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, represented President Hafiz al-Asad at the funeral. Among those at the head of the cortege were the prime minister, Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi; Comrade Muhammad Jabir Bajbuj, regional assistant secretary of the party; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; Jamil Shayya, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Fahmi al-Yusufi, deputy prime minister for services affairs; comrade members of the Regional and National commands of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; members of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front in Syria; comrade members of the Regional Command of the Unified Palestinian Organization; the ministers; Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; and members of the committee.

Chairman of the Palestinian National Council Khalid al-Fahum also attended the funeral, in addition to leaders of Palestinian organizations, representatives of popular organizations and Syrian and Palestinian associations, the Syrian ambassador in Paris Yusuf Shakhur and several Arab and foreign diplomats in Damascus.

PREPARATIONS REPORTEDLY UNDERWAY FOR ARAB SUMMIT

NC0810362 Doha QNA in Arabic 0945 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 8 August--Preparations are underway for holding a six-sided Arab summit conference in Riyadh in October or November, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reports today, citing Arab diplomatic sources in Jordan.

The newspaper says that King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, King Husayn of Jordan, Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will attend this summit.

The same sources believe that an invitation may also be extended to Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis to attend this conference. The newspaper reports that the Syrian president has expressed complete readiness to attend this conference. The conference will try to bring about a reconciliation between the Syrian and Egyptian presidents and to revive Arab solidarity in the face of the Israeli attitude, which is seeking to impose peace based on the retention of the land and the continued usurpation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

KUWAIT

OIL MINISTER DECLINES COMMENT ON COMING OPEC MEETING

JN081502Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1440 GMT 8 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 8 August--Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah today declined to comment on what was published yesterday in the Saudi paper AN-NADWAH regarding an OPEC meeting reportedly to be held in At-Ta'if on 19 August to discuss increasing oil prices and adopting other currencies to replace the U.S. dollar.

Following a meeting of the Kuwaiti Higher Oil Council, the Kuwaiti minister said he prefers not to tackle this issue at present.

UAE

MINISTER OF STATE LEAVES FOR SAUDI ARABIA

JN090931Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 August--Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, left here this morning for Riyadh on a 1-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

AL-ITTIHAD COMMENTS ON TRIPARTITE SUMMIT

JN090819Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 9 August--In its editorial today the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD comments on the U.S. President's invitation to hold a Tripartite conference in Washington concerning the Middle East.

The paper says that the invitation confirms the failure of the mission of U.S. Secretary of State Vance to find the necessary basis to resume the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. The paper continues by saying that the invitation fulfills an Egyptian wish that arose as a result of the repeated appeals to the United States to present an initiative and to find a way to force the parties concerned to implement this initiative. The invitation also represents the feverish Israeli desire to establish a principle regarding the resumption of negotiations with Egypt.

The paper adds that the invitation represents a keen U.S. desire to keep the Middle East peace efforts moving. However, the paper asserts that if there is no U.S. initiative containing broad guidelines for a settlement and if frank U.S. views regarding the interpretation of Security Council Resolution 242 and regarding its stand toward the Palestinian people's rights are lacking, the meeting will not go beyond the recent Leeds meeting.

YEMEN--PDRY

VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL, DELEGATION ARRIVE IN ADEN

LD071856Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Aug 78 LD

[Text] A Vietnamese delegation led by Comrade (?Nguyen Tien), member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, arrived in Aden this morning for a visit to the PDRY scheduled to last several days.

In a statement to the ADEN NEWS AGENCY, Comrade (?Nguyen Tien) pointed out that the object of his visit is to hold an exchange of views and experiences between officials of the two countries. He also said it is to express internationalist solidarity with the PDRY people to defend their revolutionary gains.

Comrade (?Nguyen Tien) praised the struggle of the masses of the people of Democratic Yemen in defense of their revolutionary gains and the maintenance of their independence and their progressive regime. Concluding his statement, he wished the Yemeni people more successes and victories.

On its arrival, the Vietnamese delegation was received by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Khamiri, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the Organizational Committee of the United Political Organization-National Front in the First Governorate.

AS-SADAT, CARTER, BEGIN TO MEET 5 SEPTEMBER

NC081903Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will hold a press conference after the session of talks which will be held between them tonight.

Meanwhile, MENA has learned that a meeting will be held between President Anwar as-Sadat, President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin on 5 September to discuss the attainment of peace in the Middle East. MENA has learned that the meeting will be held at Camp David, the U.S. President's retreat, which is about 100 km from Washington.

Members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee said this afternoon that President Carter will make a foreign policy statement tonight. The senators made this statement after their unscheduled meeting today with the U.S. President at his request.

REUTER says that unconfirmed reports indicate that in the statement which he will make tonight, President Carter will announce the agreement of Egypt and Israel to resume the Middle East peace talks. The agency reports that the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee members have declined to make any statements to newsmen after the meeting. However, these members made it clear that President Carter will reveal important developments in the statement which he is expected to make.

White House Spokesman Jody Powell said this afternoon that Presidents Jimmy Carter and Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin will meet on 5 September at Camp David, which is near Washington, as a result of an initiative by President Carter. Powell said that the meeting will be devoted to discussing a framework for peace in the Middle East. He said that the three leaders have agreed that there is nothing more important at present than discussing the establishment of peace in the area. Powell said that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, who is currently visiting Egypt after having visited Israel, had informed the U.S. President that President as-Sadat has accepted his invitation to attend the tripartite meeting at Camp David and that President Carter had expressed his gratitude for President as-Sadat's response.

Cairo Radio Comments

NC090723Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Aug 78 NC

[News analysis by Ibrahim Taha]

[Text] The meeting scheduled to be held at Camp David in the United States will be the third between President Anwar as-Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin. Their first meeting was in Jerusalem in November 1977 and the second in Ismailia in December of the same year. It is the first meeting between them in which U.S. President Carter will personally participate.

U.S. President Carter's participation in the meeting--in addition to the fact that it was he who issued the invitations to the meeting--reflects his interest in the Middle East peace talks. U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has stated at the press conference in Alexandria that the United States is a full partner in the talks.

Furthermore, the statements made by U.S. officials in Vance's party indicate that the United States is interested in rescuing the talks, which have been deadlocked as a result of Israeli intransigence. Vance's aides have said that the call for a tripartite summit conference attended by President as-Sadat, President Carter and Menahem Begin is one of several ideas submitted by Vance, all of them aimed at reviving the peace talks between Egypt and Israel. This theme was confirmed in Washington when a U.S. official stated that President Carter called for this conference because he was worried about the slow pace of the peace process in the Middle East.

As for the possible outcome of the Camp David conference, that same U.S. official in Washington summed it up by saying that President Carter made his invitation to the tripartite conference not because the chances of peace are great but because the risks are grave and the danger is increasing, and because President Carter feels that it is important to maintain the peace momentum in the interests of the world as well as the Middle East.

The eyes of the world are now on Israel, awaiting the next step toward peace.

AS-SADAT, VANCE HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE IN ALEXANDRIA

NC0812100Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2028 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Joint press conference held by President Anwar as-Sadat and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance at Al-Ma'murah resthouse in Alexandria at the end of their talks on 18 August--conference conducted in English with superimposed Arabic translation--tranlated from superimposed Arabic translation--live]

[Text] [As-Sadat] I would like to say a few words. It has been a happy occasion to meet again with the U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. We held lengthy discussions which lasted 2 hours. He has delivered to me a personal message from President Carter. [A helicopter flying over the area forces As-Sadat to pause in his statement. He is heard in the background saying: Let us wait for the helicopter, ha, ha, ha]. After delivering to me the message from President Carter, Vance briefed me on his discussions in Israel. For sure you must have learned about the statement that has been issued by the White House, by President Carter, saying that I, personally, and Mr Begin will meet at Camp David on 5 September. We agreed to this yesterday. We have reviewed the entire situation, not only the situation in the Middle East but in the entire area--this part of the world. As usual, we were in agreement on the whole analysis which was submitted to us. I wish to express my happiness, and I seize this opportunity to ask Mr Vance to convey to my dear friend President Carter and the American people my gratitude and that of my people for this brave help he is extending to us and for the understanding he is showing.

[Vance] Thank you. As the president said, I delivered to his excellency a message from the U.S. Government and President Carter. I am very happy to say that President as-Sadat has accepted the invitation which was extended to him. As President as-Sadat put it, the discussions dealt with the framework through which we can achieve a durable peace in the Middle East. This is the essence of the position to which all of us aspire. This is the noble aim which we are seeking. On behalf of U.S. President Carter, I wish to thank President as-Sadat and tell him: We long to see him in the United States. Thank you.

[Question] Have you seen a change in the Israeli or the U.S. position that made you change your own position and accept this invitation, or do you expect any benefit from such a meeting? Do you expect to find new ideas other than the ideas you received last February?

[As-Sadat] As I have exactly said to you, after I read the personal message which my friend Vance handed to me, I decided to go to Camp David for the same reason that was mentioned today in the statement that President Carter made--to find a framework for the peace we seek. And let us say this: In my opinion, this is a new step. I ask you not to look backward.

[Question by the CBS correspondent] Has the United States assured you in a personal or private way? Has it given you specific information to accept this invitation?

[Answer] Let me first tell you that President Carter and I have dedicated ourselves to the cause of peace. All I will ask at Camp David is that President Carter, on behalf of the United States, play his role as a full partner. When I become sure of this, I shall always respond to any call by President Carter.

[Question by the BBC correspondent] Were there any indications by President Carter that he will play his role as a full partner, and will the United States submit a U.S. plan?

[As-Sadat] Why not address this question to Mr Vance?

[Vance] We are prepared, as the president said, to play our role as a full partner to establish a durable peace. All parties must reach an agreement. As I said before, the United States is trying to remove the obstacles and pave the way for peace.

[Question] Could you define in a more positive way the framework which you are considering for peace? Will this framweork by reached through the negotiations or through other things?

[Vance] The basis on which we work has always been and will continue to be the achievement of peace. The use of words or language by themselves do not constitute the framework. I believe all our efforts are within the framework of UN Resolution 242.

[Question] What do you mean by full partner?

[Vance] We have always expressed our readiness to play this role. We are partners because peace is not the duty of the people of this area alone. Peace is important to the United States and the entire world. Therefore, we feel happy over the efforts to achieve peace.

[Question] It is being said that you will not be a mediator but will play a direct role?

[Vance] There will be discussions among the three parties. When there will be a role for us, we will play it. We are looking for progress in this area and will work toward this.

[Question] Do you have a specific framework at present, or are you seeking this framework?

[Vance] I believe that it is important that we have the peace process in the right direction and give a new momentum to this process. It is for this reason that President Carter called for the holding of this meeting. There are no fixed times for the negotiations and discussions.

[Question] What do you mean exactly by the U.S. playing its role as a full partner? What do you mean by the words full partner? Did you get any indication from Israel that it will respond when you will play your role as a full partner?

[Vance] We are happy to play our role as a full partner, and I believe the United States wants to play this role.

[Question] What are the risks, in your opinion, if the Camp David meetings fail?

[As-Sadat] I have always said that I am an optimist by nature. Whatever happens, my next step will be taken after whatever happens. I tell you that there is a British proverb which says: Let us cross the bridge when we come to it.

[The relay ends abruptly at 2045 GMT and normal programming is resumed from the studio without an announcement that the conference has ended. A recording of the conference broadcast after the 2100 GMT newscast ends the same way]

KAMIL, VANCE HOLD SECOND MEETING 8 AUGUST

NC081038Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] At 1100 today Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil met with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to complete the discussion of Middle Eastern issues and means of boosting the efforts to promote a settlement.

Kamil Meets Aides

NC081230Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1212 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 8 August--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil at 1315 today met with Egyptian Ambassador to the United States Dr Ashraf Ghurbal, First Secretary of the Foreign Ministry Dr Usamah al-Baz, and Ambassador [presumably at the Foreign Ministry] Ahmad Mahir. The results of today's talks between the Egyptian foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state were discussed at the meeting.

The private meeting between Kamil and Vance lasted 130 minutes. The two discussed at length a number of topics which will be discussed during the meeting between President as-Sadat and Cyrus Vance this evening.

Hodding Carter Comments

NC081457Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 8 August--Hodding Carter, the official U.S. State Department spokesman, has stated that at the private meeting which was held today at the Palestine Hotel and which lasted 2 hours, Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance discussed some aspects of the situation. Carter added that the fundamental issues dealing with the core of the problem will be discussed by President Anwar as-Sadat and Vance tonight.

Asked by reporters about the results of the discussions which took place today, a member of the U.S. delegation said: There is an indication that some sort of an agreement might be reached or that there might be a step toward compromise solutions.

The U.S. member added: The atmosphere in which the U.S. secretary of state is holding his discussions has changed. Whereas yesterday anxiety and gloom engulfed the observers and reporters who have been following Vance's mission, an atmosphere of optimism tinged with caution is now prevailing among those who are following this mission. In light of what the U.S. delegation member is trying to insinuate, the observers believe that some kind of understanding has been reached and that something is about to be announced.

Some observers believe that the announcement that Vance will make a press statement before leaving Alexandria tomorrow morning means that nothing has been achieved so far. They also believe that tonight's meeting between President as-Sadat and Vance will be an important and decisive meeting in this round of discussions, which aims at resuming the direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel.

Cairo Radio Comments

NC081350Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[By Muhammad Sharaf]

[Text] The results of U.S. Secretary of State Vance's recent discussions in Israel are still somewhat ambiguous. When speaking about the results, we actually mean the specific and direct results concerning the principal aim of the U.S. secretary of state's current discussions in Israel and Egypt. This principal aim, as is known, is to try to get the direct negotiations between Egypt and Israel resumed. As for the general results of the discussions, the indications are that the Begin government is still insisting on its position regarding the withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza sector. In a statement after his discussions with the U.S. secretary of state, Israeli Prime Minister Begin referred to this position when he spoke about his plan to grant a limited, 5-year autonomy to the West Bank and Gaza sector under Israeli military control.

It is the general impression of observers that the U.S. and Israeli sides are not very optimistic about Egypt's possible abandonment of its insistence that Israel must agree to withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories as a condition for the continuation of the peace talks. As for the discussions which Vance began in Alexandria yesterday, the U.S. secretary of state has conveyed a letter from President Carter to President as-Sadat. All that has been said about the discussions is that they were characterized by frankness, that they dealt with all aspects of the present situation and that they were continuous.

In light of all this, it would be premature to speak now about the specific results of the discussions of the U.S. secretary of state in Israel and Egypt. However, we can discern the main lines of the U.S. position at the present stage through statements made by the U.S. senior officials. President Carter recently said in effect that it is still early for the United States to submit specific views or proposals on the settlement. The U.S. secretary of state, in a statement which he made after departing Israel for Alexandria, pointed out that the United States will continue its ceaseless efforts for peace. This means that the United States is continuing its role of mediator and that it has not definitely disclosed whether it intends to submit specific proposals or--if it does intend to submit proposals--when it intends to do so.

Regardless of the present ambiguity and silence surrounding the discussions of the U.S. secretary of state in Israel and Egypt, it is a known fact that the peace contacts between Egypt and Israel, which have practically come to a complete halt since the suspension of the activities of the Political and Military committees, are passing through a critical phase. This means that intensive efforts must be exerted to prevent the further deterioration of the situation. In this regard, the main role falls now on the shoulders of the United States. It is no secret at all that Egyptian public opinion and Arab public opinion in general are getting fed up with the intransigence of the Begin government. This is a fact which must be given top consideration, because it is a very influential factor in the whole situation.

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE DEPARTS

NC090855Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 9 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Alexandria, 9 August--U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and his delegation left Alexandria this morning after a 2-day visit to Alexandria, where he held talks with President Anwar as-Sadat. The U.S. secretary of state was seen off at Janaklis airport at 1015 by Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts. Vance, accompanied by Foreign Minister Kamil, arrived at An-Nuzhah airport at 0930. Newsmen tried to talk to him, but he greeted them from a distance and boarded a helicopter, which took him to Janaklis airport, where he took off for Washington.

PRESIDENT AS-SADAT TO ADDRESS NATION 14 AUGUST

NC090745Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 9 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 9 August--The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports today that President Anwar as-Sadat will make an extensive tour of all the governorates of Egypt soon. He will start the tour with a visit to the governorates of lower Egypt in the second half of September.

The newspaper says that during this tour President as-Sadat will discuss the course of national action incorporated in the program of the National Democratic Party. This program aims at achieving the objectives of the masses, solving their problems and giving the youth the opportunity to play their role in national action, which is based on first defining the objective and then working to achieve it.

The newspaper also says that President as-Sadat will meet with members of the General Secretariat of the party on Sunday to prepare the final arrangements for the meeting he will hold with the members of the Constituent Committee of the party on Monday, 10 Ramadan [14 August]. During his meeting with the Constituent Committee of the party, President as-Sadat will address the nation on the features of national action in the future in light of the program of the National Democratic Party. The speech will be broadcast live on radio and television.

AL-AHRAM says that in his speech President as-Sadat will dwell on three main points:

1. The importance of the formation of the National Democratic Party at this crucial stage;

2. The party's course of national action to achieve the objectives of the party, which include providing food for every mouth and a house for every family and preparing the general atmosphere for work, increasing production and solving the people's problems;

3. The guarantees which have been agreed upon so that the new party will be expressive of the broad hopes of the Egyptian people and the national democratic course of party action to achieve these hopes.

MUBARAK TO ASSUME DUTIES WHILE AS-SADAT VACATIONS

NC082259Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 8 August--Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will take over the duties of the president when his excellency goes on vacation during the month of Ramadan.

WAR MINISTER AL-JAMASI RETURNS FROM MOGADISCIO

NC081542Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi returned to Cairo from Mogadiscio this afternoon.

Leading a military delegation, General al-Jamasi arrived in Somalia last Saturday. He held discussions with the Somali side on bolstering and developing relations between Egypt and Somalia.

Somali President Mohammed Siad Barre received Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi this morning. At the end of the meeting, the Somali president awarded Al-Jamasi the Star of Somalia medal.

General al-Jamasi was welcomed at Cairo airport by the armed forces chief of staff, Lt. Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi, and some senior armed forces commanders.

AS-SADAT SENDS CONDOLENCE MESSAGE ON POPE'S DEATH

NC071602Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Aug 78 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat has sent the following cable of condolence to His Holiness Cardinal Jean Villot, the secretary of state at the Vatican, on the death of His Holiness Pope Paul VI.

I received with much grief and sorrow the news of the death of his holiness, the late Pope Paul VI, after an eventful life in the service of spiritual values and ideals. He played a prominent role in addressing contemporary world problems to establish peaceful coexistence among peoples and to create a better world society.

Egypt and I personally have lost a dear friend who stood firmly against the violation of man's dignity, deplored aggression against man's life and freedom, and positively and effectively contributed to the attainment of real peace in the Middle East area, which is the cradle of religions and of heavenly messages.

In my name, and on behalf of the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt, I express to you my profound condolences and sympathies on the loss of this great departed. I implore God Almighty to encompass him with his grace and place him among the saints and martyrs.

MINISTER DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

JN0810111Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 8 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 August--Information Minister Sa'd Qasim Hammudi has denied that Iraq is involved in the internal Palestinian struggles. He said that Iraq does not necessarily lean toward any Palestinian side. In a statement to the Lebanese information delegation which attended the trial of As-Sadat, Hammudi said that Iraq is not concerned with the Palestinian methods of action and that every Palestinian side is responsible for its own actions.

In his statement, which was published today in the newspaper AS-SAFIR, Hammudi said that Iraq's position toward existing differences among any of the patriotic and progressive sides is that these differences should be solved within the framework of democratic dialog and not by force. He said that the provocative acts against Iraq have reached the extent of accusing it of supporting the isolationists in Lebanon. He added: When did Iraq communicate with the Phalangists or the National Liberals? He said: We challenge anybody to prove this.

He added that disharmony in Iraqi-Palestinian relations is not owing to Abu Nidal's presence in Baghdad. We refuse to link our stand to the presence of Abu Nidal. This is what the PLO has been trying to blackmail us with. The information minister asked: What happened to the Tripoli charter about the unity of the Palestinian factions? He said that the defeatist sides do not seek the unity of these factions.

He also asked: What is the relationship of WAFA with the military communists who were executed in Iraq? Is it WAFA's position to defend the communists and to use the material in the file of Iraqi Communist Party Secretary Fahd?

Hammudi said that Iraq's refusal to join the front of steadfastness arises from Iraq's belief that the Algiers conference lacked seriousness and that the conferees had divergent views on several matters.

LEBANESE HIGHER COUNCIL DELEGATION ARRIVES

JN0821151Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 2055 GMT 8 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 8 August--A delegation of the Higher Council of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement headed by Comrade George Hawi, assistant secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, arrived here tonight on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Comrade Hawi said that the regular visits by the Lebanese Nationalist Movement delegation to Iraq are in harmony with the relations of struggle which link the movement to this struggling country and the Ba'th Party. He said that the delegation's current visit is of special importance in view of the grave escalation of the political and military situation in Lebanon owing to the Zionist-isolationist plotting, which constitutes a serious danger to Lebanon's unity and Arabism.

The delegation includes Comrades Muhammad Tawfiq Sultan, member of the Progressive Socialist Party and official in charge of Arab affairs in the party; Hafiz Hammud as-Sa'igh, member of the Political Bureau of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party; Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Action Organization; and Dr Samir Muhyi ad-Din Sabbagh, deputy leader of the Independent Nasirite Movement al-Murabitun.

SIX IRAQIS BARRED FROM ENTERING EGYPT

JN080817Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 August--The Egyptian authorities have barred six Iraqis from entering Egypt and detained one tourist, whose fate is still unknown. The tourists, who returned to Baghdad this morning, said that the Egyptian authorities apprehended them upon arrival and searched them aggressively. These authorities did not give the tourists the opportunity to eat after they arrived at noon yesterday.

BA'THIST OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD FROM LEBANON

JN071941Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 7 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 7 August--Radi Farahat, assistant secretary of the Ba'th Party Regional Command in Lebanon, arrived in Baghdad this evening for a visit of several days to Iraq. Mr Farahat will hold discussions with comrades in the Ba'th Party National Command concerning the latest developments in the situation in the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas, and the dangers which threaten the Arab struggle at the current stage.

INDIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES FOR TRADE DISCUSSIONS

JN051000Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 5 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 5 August--Mr Bhandari, under secretary in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, arrived here this morning at the head of a delegation representing a group of public sector establishments on a 3-day visit to Iraq. The delegation will hold talks with officials in the Trade Ministry to prepare for the second session of the joint Iraqi-Indian ministerial committee scheduled to meet here in November.

Meets Housing Minister

JN071707Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 7 August--Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and minister of public works and housing, met here today with Romesh Bhandari, under secretary in the Indian External Affairs Ministry and head of the Indian delegation to the meetings of the subcommittee of the joint Iraqi-Indian committee for economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. During the meeting, they discussed the possibilities of Indian companies contributing to the carrying out of certain housing projects in Iraq; they also discussed joint projects of the two countries in building canals and bridges.

Ends Visit

JN081545Y Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 8 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 8 August--The Indian trade delegation led by Mr Romesh Bhandari, undersecretary of the Ministry of External Affairs and secretary general of the Iraqi-Indian ministerial joint commission, left here today after a 3-day visit to Iraq.

During its visit the delegation held talks with Iraqi officials at the Trade and Housing and Construction ministries in preparation for the second session of the Iraqi-Indian joint commission, scheduled here next November. Both sides discussed also aspects of developing bilateral economic relations and expanding the volume of trade.

MINISTER OF STATE COMMENTS ON PEACE TALKS WITH ISRAEL

NC081112Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 8 August--Jordanian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hasan Ibrahim has stressed that Jordan will not take part in any Middle East peace talks unless Israel adheres to two principles--total withdrawal and [recognition of] the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

In a statement published today in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS, the Jordanian minister explained that Jordan's diplomatic activity is aimed at reaching a unified Arab plan that would insure a power balance between the Arabs and Israel. He also explained that the current coordination between Jordan and Syria aims at enabling the two countries to shoulder their responsibility in view of their geographical location vis-a-vis Israel.

The Jordanian minister also stressed that relations between his country and the PLO are normal. He expressed Jordan's readiness for a dialog with the PLO.

TRADE UNIONS FEDERATION CONDEMNS CRIMES OF IRAQI REGIME

JN061452Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 6 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 6 August--The General Secretariat of the General Federation of the Jordanian Workers Trade Unions has sent a strongly worded memorandum to the chief and members of the Executive Bureau of the Iraqi Workers Trade Unions.

The memorandum says that the Iraqi regime continues to carry out its conspiratorial policy against the Palestinian revolution and people. The memorandum adds that the intelligence organs of the Iraqi regime are assassinating cadres of the Palestinian revolution in keeping with the decision of the Zionist Knesset to eliminate the Palestinian liberation movement, its cadres, leaders and representatives abroad. This is happening at a time when the Palestinian revolution is devoting all its capabilities to fighting the Zionist enemy inside the occupied territories. The Palestinian news agency WAFA quoted the memorandum as saying that the assassination of brothers 'Izz ad-Din al-Qalaq and 'Adnan Hammad at the hands of the Iraqi intelligence comes at a time when Israeli planes are attacking Palestinian camps. This proves the organic connection between the two developments.

Th memorandum adds that the General Secretariat and the Jordanian working class condemn the criminal act of the Baghdad rulers and assured them that such crimes will not hamper the march of struggle until victory is achieved.

The memorandum concludes by calling on the Iraqi workers to confront the Baghdad rulers and force them to stop these criminal and cowardly campaigns against the Palestinian revolution. The memorandum urges the Iraqi workers to support the Palestinian revolution and its strugglers.

AD-DUSTUR COMMENTS ON COMING CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

JN090955Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Aug 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AD-DUSTUR says that it is noteworthy that the Camp David summit meeting will take place during 'Id al-Fitr [Ramadan]. President as-Sadat had met with Begin for the first time in occupied Jerusalem on the eve of last year's 'Id al-Adha [Feast of the Sacrifice]. Then he met him in Ismailia on Christmas Day. No one knows whether the dates of the meetings between President as-Sadat and Begin, on feast days, had been set out of optimism about these blessed days or that coincidence alone linked these meetings with the feast days.

The newspaper AD-DUSTUR continues: In any case, one fact is known by everyone, namely, that the 'Id al-Adha meeting in Jerusalem and the Christmas Day meeting in Ismailia did not achieve anything. Naturally, no one knows what will emerge from the 'Id al-Fitr meeting at Camp David. However, the announcement of the 'Id al-Fitr meeting raises many interrelated questions: What happened to make Cairo change its position and agree to attend the summit at a time when Egypt's foreign minister, a few hours before the meeting was announced, had stated that there is no use in holding any meetings if they are not preceded by a change in the Israeli position? Had such a change taken place? If so, what was the nature and extent of the change?

The paper asks if it is possible for President Carter to have proposed such a summit without the existence of certain factors which had convinced him that some sort of success would be achieved which would consolidate his position, taking into consideration that the U.S. President is not obliged to propose a meeting in his country which would fail and which would have undesirable effects on the prestige of the U.S. administration.

The newspaper AD-DUSTUR asks: In this case, has all that is taking place--mutual intransigence by Israel and Egypt--just on the surface and other things that are taking place below the surface encouraged Carter to propose this tripartite summit?

These and other questions are being put clearly at present and are awaiting answers. In any case, it is not expected that answers will be given until after the coming Camp David meeting.

AL-HUSS ASSESSES SITUATION IN BEIRUT, S. LEBANON

NC081655Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] At 1245 President Ilyas Sarkis met with the prime minister, Dr Salim al-Huss, and the deputy prime minister and the minister of foreign and expatriates affairs and defense, Fu'ad Butrus. This meeting was preceded by a meeting in the Presidential Palace between Prime Minister al-Huss and Minister Butrus during which the general situation was reviewed.

After the meeting, Prime Minister al-Huss said: The discussions dealt with the security situation in the country and the position of the military unit in the south. We assessed the outcome of the diplomatic contacts carried out to date. We will continue to discuss these subjects tomorrow.

When told that it appears that the results of the diplomatic contacts concerning the south have not produced results and when asked whether there is any intention to ask for a Security Council meeting, Prime Minister al-Huss said: The subject is under discussion, and the diplomatic contacts are also being followed up. When asked whether this means that the idea of calling for a meeting of the Security Council is being studied, Prime Minister al-Huss replied: This is one possibility.

When asked whether there were tangible results concerning the situation in the capital and its suburbs in light of the efforts and contacts being carried out by the government, Prime Minister al-Huss replied: God willing, we hope so.

To a final question, the prime minister answered that the date of his visit to Damascus has not yet been fixed.

FOREIGN MINISTER BUTRUS RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM VANCE

NC090632Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpt] At its weekly session this morning under President Ilyas Sarkis the cabinet is expected to discuss the crisis in the south in the light of the recent developments and the message which Minister of Foreign Affairs Fu'ad Butrus has received from U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. The message from Vance contained the results of his talks with the Israeli Government and Israel's position on the problem in the south.

The cabinet will discuss the solutions proposed for the crisis in the south, including the possibility of resorting to the UN Security Council.

DETERRENT FORCES COMMANDER: SOLUTION IN OFFING

NC090950Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Meetings and contacts continued at the Presidential Palace in B'abda to deal with the general situation in the country. President Ilyas Sarkis, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and some political leaders and security officials participated in these meetings and contacts. At 0900 President Sarkis chaired a meeting attended by Prime Minister al-Huss, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus and Army Commander Gen Victor Khuri.

President Sarkis then met with Deputy Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Mr Dany Sham'un. Arab Deterrent Forces Commander Col Sami al-Khattib later joined the meeting. Prime Minister al-Huss also met with Deputy Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil at the Presidential Palace.

[illegible] Presidential Palace, Colonel al-Khatib said: Certain measures are being [illegible]. It is in the public interest not to divulge them. All these measures are naturally in the interest of stability and security.

[illegible]bout the time needed for implementing these measures, Colonel al-Khatib said this will be according to military circumstances. However, while we cannot determine the time, I affirm that this will be very soon. The situation has been discussed in depth. It is true that there is some sniping but the situation is proceeding toward a comprehensive solution. God willing, there will be relaxation soon.

SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM MEETS WITH FRANJIYAH

NC081838Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] At noon today, former President Sulayman Franjiyah met with the Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who was accompanied by the Syrian chief of staff, Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, and Brig Gen Muhammad al-Khuli. Franjiyah and the deputies and leaders of Zgharta held a meeting with the Syrian delegation. The meeting ended at 1400 after which all attended a luncheon hosted by Franjiyah.

After lunch, Franjiyah met privately with Minister Khaddam for 1/2 hour. After this meeting, Minister Khaddam answered reporters' questions. He said: Our visit with His Excellency President Franjiyah is a natural thing in view of the fraternal relations existing between him and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, and between Lebanon and Syria. Therefore, it is only natural that such a visit would take place and that all topics which concern us should be discussed.

Minister Khaddam answered another question by saying: The entry of the Lebanese Army into the south is the first serious attempt to impose Lebanese legitimacy on a part of Lebanon. There is no doubt that this step should be supported by all honest and sincere people in Lebanon and abroad. There is also no doubt that those who are placing obstacles in the way of the army's entry are not serving Lebanon's interest and legitimacy at all, but they are serving the Israeli enemy.

To another question Minister Khaddam replied: The provocations against the deterrent forces are part of the plan drawn by Israel. The aim of this plan is to undermine security in Lebanon, as well as to destroy Lebanese unity and legitimacy. Therefore, we cannot draw a distinction between these provocations and the provocations taking place in the south by some armed men supported by Israel.

Concerning his meeting with President Sarkis, Minister Khaddam said: We discussed with President Sarkis everything that concerns Lebanon and Syria, as well as the measures and ways which will bolster the Lebanese state and legitimacy; naturally, we felt the president's determination to continue the implementation of the Lebanese resolution on entry into the south.

Regarding his stand concerning Vance's shuttle between Cairo and Israel, Minister Khaddam said: As is well known, our stand is clear. The policy pursued by the Egyptian president does not serve the interests of the Arabs, and it does not serve the cause of just peace or our national and patriotic interest. Consequently, all that results from his visit to Israel will be in the realm of an illegitimate newborn.

Asked about the renewal of the deterrent forces' mandate, he answered: When Syria undertook its responsibility toward fraternal Lebanon, it did not ask for anyone's permission, and it will not heed any voices which are raised here and there nor anyone's objections in Lebanon. This will not affect Syria's commitment. As far as I know, the Arab states are in agreement in supporting and bolstering the role of the deterrent forces, including the Syrian forces in Lebanon. There is no person in the Arab countries who will permit himself to imagine that some outlaws can control the affairs of the Lebanese people.

Minister Khaddam concluded by saying: The deterrent forces are connected with a series of goals related to our fraternal and fateful commitment to fraternal Lebanon. Therefore, the deterrent forces will stay until they achieve these goals.

NATIONAL MOVEMENT ISSUES STATEMENT ON SITUATION

JN0816O1Y Baghdad INA in English 1535 GMT 8 Aug 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 8 August--The Lebanese National Movement reaffirmed that any settlement to the crisis in southern Lebanon depends on ending the Lebanese rightist forces' presence in the borders area.

A political statement distributed at a press conference held by the movement's Political Council here today warned against turning the Zionist enemy into a power in Lebanese political life and urged blocking all presently open doors with the Zionist enemy.

It added that what concerns the public is the southern issue and the deteriorating security situation in the capital, pointing out that the Lebanese authority's dealing with the southern issue instigates astonishment, for it neglects the question of Zionist occupation and tries to show the situation in the south as a domestic problem that does not exceed entrance or non-entrance of the Lebanese Army into it.

The movement charged Lebanese authority with backing sectarian military factions in the south, neglecting the shelling of Beirut's western area, freezing reactivation of the economy, maintaining closure of Beirut Port and disregarding people's daily needs in several parts of the country.

It also charged the authority of open bias vis-a-vis the Lebanese rightist front and called for speedy treatment of these problems.

The statement stressed that the movement would not maintain silence over the rightist militia's provocations.

ARAB ARMY OF LEBANON POSSIBLY BEING RESURRECTED

NC0817O3Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1615 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Lebanese sources have expressed their fears about the results of the possible resurrection of the remnants of the Arab Army of Lebanon now that Damascus has released dissident officer Ahmad al-Khatib [former commander of the Arab Army of Lebanon]. The fears of the quarters concerned increased following reports from Sidon that the Palestinian organizations have frozen their differences at present in order to adopt appropriate measures to deal with the next phase in the south.

The current developments in the south were raised at a meeting which was held today in the Kawkaba area between the UN forces commander, General Erskine, and the commander of the Lebanese unit there, Lt Col Adib Sa'd. The reports coming from the area indicate that there has been no tangible progress in the current efforts to facilitate the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the border area.

Observers believe that the intransigent position of the Tel Aviv government on the advance of the Lebanese military unit toward Tibnin remains unchanged. The Israeli officials provide several justifications for this position, mainly that this unit obeys the orders of officer Ibrahim Shahin more than it obeys the orders of officer Adib Sa'd. The facts are, however, that Lt Col Adib Sa'd assumes various missions and that contacts are held with him.

We have received reports from the south that armed Palestinian elements today prevented some of the soldiers of the Lebanese contingent from returning to Al-Biqa' via Hasbayya.

VOICE OF LEBANON: BEIRUT CALM BUT CAUTIOUS 8 AUGUST

NC0815247 Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1415 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] A cautious calm prevailed throughout the capital and its suburbs today, but there was sniping in some areas.

Today, the eastern entrance of Beirut was the scene of a cautious flow of traffic after no traffic for 2 days. An atmosphere of anxiety and caution continues to prevail in most of the areas where there was fighting in the last 2 days.

According to security reports today, there was only one incident in which a woman was hit by sniper fire in (Sikkin), and some shells fell at noon in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah. During the past 48 hours, an estimated 2600 shells were fired on Beirut.

Reports from the western area indicate that the people in the regions of Al-Mazra'ah and Burj Abu Haydar are complaining of the presence of armed men who are planting explosive charges in several quarters in order to terrorize the inhabitants.

In the south, one soldier was killed and others were wounded. They belong to the regular Lebanese military forces stationed in Kawkaba. This was caused by the artillery fire to which they have been subjected. This indicates that obstacles still block their advance to Tibnin in spite of the efforts which were exerted by U.S. Secretary Vance with the Tel Aviv government.

Arab Deterrent Forces' Report

NC0819487 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] Answering a question tonight on the security situation in Beirut and its suburbs, a responsible source with the Arab Deterrent Forces said: Quiet prevailed in Beirut and its suburbs today. This quiet was disturbed only by the fall of several shells in the Ash-Shiyah area. The shells which were fired from the east led to the slight wounding of three persons. The Arab Deterrent Forces in the Al-Ashrafiyah area and Al-Burj Square were the target of intermittent sniper fire. One soldier of the Arab Deterrent Forces was killed.

Intermittent sniper fire continued in 'Ayn ar-Rummanah throughout the day. The Arab Deterrent Forces did not retaliate.

On this occasion, the Arab Deterrent Forces Command reaffirms that its forces have never used any phosphorescent bombs [presumably white phosphorous rounds] as alleged by some local news sources.

SHELLING RESUMES IN BEIRUT 9 AUGUST

NC090626Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0515 GMT 9 Aug 78 NC

[Excerpt] The inhabitants of Al-Ashrafiyah awoke this morning to the sounds of explosions and heavy weapons. Shells began to fall on the As-Suyufi area at 0430 and continued to fall until 0530. Some shells fell on the [name indistinct] area. The sources of the fire were the Syrian tank guns stationed in Dahr al-Jamal. The sudden shelling caused only material damage. No casualties have yet been reported.

Reports this morning indicate that the eastern entrance to Beirut at the Burj Hammud is open to traffic. However, movement there requires caution.

The 'Ayn ar-Rummanah-Ash-Shiyah area came under artillery shelling during the night. Three people were wounded. Sniper fire is now covering the entire area.

In Al-Hadath heavy sniping began at 2100 last night and is still continuing. This prompted the citizens to remain in their shelters.

Observers fear that Lebanese Army elements may not be able to take up positions in the museum area today according to plan.

UNIFIL COMMANDER ERSKINE VISITS KAWKABA

NC081852Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Aug 78 NC

[Text] The UNIFIL spokesman announced this evening that the commander of the UNIFIL units in the south, General Erskine, accompanied by his deputy, General Cuq, visited the Kawkaba area today to coordinate among the units of the various contingents which compose UNIFIL in order to confront the recurring shelling on one side of the UNIFIL's area of operations. They met with the commander of the Lebanese forces in the area, Lt Col Adib Sa'ad; the commander of the Nepalese unit, Colonel (Kotawalah); and the commander of the Norwegian contingent, Colonel (Erik).

Answering a question, General Erskine said that, although he prefers to be optimistic, the recurring shelling points to the fact that the public promises from some quarters concerning cooperation with the UNIFIL units were not reflected in the field.

The UNIFIL spokesman concluded by saying: Up to the time this report arrived in Beirut at 1700, no firing had occurred in the area.

TISHRIN COMMENTS ON CAMP DAVID TRIPARTITE SUMMIT

JN090739Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Aug 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "As-Sadat Has No Position in the Arab Ranks," the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the As-Sadat-Begin meeting which will be held at Camp David at the invitation of U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The paper says:

Under no circumstances will As-Sadat's agreement to attend the summit with Begin and Carter serve the issue of a just peace in the Middle East. This is because the United States has not expressed its readiness to accept the two principles of total withdrawal and the right of the Palestinians to determine their future, and Israel has not altered its stand of not even conceding the Egyptian land in the Sinai. This summit will only continue the tripartite plot to impose capitulation and humiliation on the Arabs and to impede sincere international efforts aimed at achieving a settlement based on the UN resolutions.

All the Arabs, who once held certain hopes in the possibility of As-Sadat returning to the Arab fold after admitting the failure of the capitulationist policy and after opening the doors with the Arab capitals and closing them with Tel Aviv, must realize now that these hopes cannot be fulfilled and that all the assertions made by As-Sadat at the closed meetings were only prevarications and false allegations. As-Sadat is no longer trustworthy and his pledges and words have no application in the Arab world.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: The Arabs today are required more than ever to reactivate Arab solidarity and cooperation and to struggle against As-Sadat's capitulationist policy and U.S. attempts aimed at dominating the Middle East settlement process. The Arabs are also required to mobilize Arab resources and potentials in all fields so as to be able to wage the battle of liberating the occupied territories and regaining usurped rights on all confrontation fronts.

Syria has always been willing and will continue to stretch out its hands to cooperate with all Arab sides that are willing to liberate the land to regain our rights. Syria sets no conditions for such cooperation.

CABINET BRIEFED BY FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM

JN090747Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus--The cabinet met at 2000 yesterday under Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi. During the meeting, the cabinet listened to a political report submitted by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The report dealt with the nonalined conference which was held recently in Belgrade. It also dealt with Saudi Crown Prince Fahd's visit to Damascus and the situation in Lebanon.

DAMASCUS: IRAQ SUPPLIES ARMS TO LEBANESE RIGHTISTS

JN081500Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Aug 78 JN

[Excerpts] The fascist Tikriti regime ruling in Baghdad is supplying the gangs of the Phalangists and the Sham'unists with arms, missiles and ammunition in an attempt to hamper the restoration of calm and stability in Lebanon, aiming at implementation of the Zionist design to create sectarian states in the area.

The Palestinian news agency WAFA, which reported this, said today that an Iraqi ship arrived in Juniyah on 5 August with a well-known Iraqi personality on board. WAFA added that this ship carried arms, ammunition, mortars and food supplies as aid to the Phalangist and Sham'unist gangs.

News agencies reported earlier this year that the agent Dany Sham'un visited Baghdad, where he got $5 million in aid.

U.S. EXPERT LINKS LEBANESE EVENTS, AS-SADAT INITIATIVE

JN060708Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 Aug 78 JN

[Text] In a statement made in Washington to Monte Carlo Radio, a U.S. Middle East affairs expert has admitted that there is a connection between events in Lebanon and the policy of capitulation which Anwar as-Sadat is practicing in collusion with Israel and the United States.

The U.S. expert linked the igniting of the first spark of the war in Lebanon with the second disengagement of forces agreement in Sinai between Egypt and Israel. He added that this plan was drawn up by Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state, and is being implemented by Anwar as-Sadat, causing the Lebanese crisis. It is now obvious that As-Sadat's initiative has ended in failure. Egypt has no justification to continue the initiative.

Commenting on Vance's current tour of the area, the U.S. expert affirmed that Vance is not expected to come up with anything new regarding direct negotiations between the Egyptian regime and Israel.

PRESIDENT SENDS MESSAGE TO HAVANA YOUTH FESTIVAL

JN041610Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Aug 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed in his message to the 11th World Youth and Students Festival in Havana, which was read out at the festival, that our people are waging a continuous battle of defense in face of the Israeli aggressions and the multifaceted imperialist pressures. He also stressed that our people categorically refuse to bow to pressure on aggression, and are determined to remain free with a firm resolution to triumph in the battle of destiny and survival they are waging against the enemies of our nation.

The president added: The will of our people was expressed splendidly in the October War and the attrition wars, in which the achievements by our fighters on the battlefield and by our masses on the home front were brilliant evidence that the Arab people are determined and capable of defeating the forces which have collaborated to usurp their territories and rights and check their freedom by occupying Arab territories and denying Arab rights.

Just as our people in Syria stand fast in the face of Zionism and imperialism, they stand with the same firmness in the face of those who deviate from the Arab line and the right path, following the path of defeatism and capitulation with every intent to harm the Arab cause instead of following the path of commitment to the unified Arab stand, which is the path for an effective Arab force capable of liberating the occupied Arab territories and regaining the usurped Arab rights, foremost of which is the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination and the exercise of their sovereignty in their independent state and on the soil of their homeland.

Cables Condolences to Vatican

JN071452Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Aug 78 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad sent a cable of condolence today to Cardinal Jean Villot expressing deepest sympathy in his name and on behalf of the Syrian people on the death of His Holiness Pope Paul VI. The president praised highly the pope's call for condemnation of aggression and his continuous efforts to establish genuine peace, his attitude toward racism, and his call for abiding love among all peoples. The president prayed to Allah that the deceased peope's successor will achieve success for the Catholic Church in serving humanity.

YAR ENVOY DELIVERS MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT AL-ASAD

JN080537Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 8 Aug 78 JN

[Text] At 2400 yesterday Prime Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Halabi received Ahmad Muhammad Haydar, YAR Foreign Ministry under secretary. The YAR envoy delivered a message addressed to President al-Asad from YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the YAR charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Haydar arrived in Damascus last evening on a short visit to Syria.

Leaves for Tripoli

JN081310Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Aug 78 JN

[Text] The under secretary of the YAR Foreign Ministry concluded his visit and left Damascus for Tripoli. During his visit, the YAR envoy conveyed a message addressed to President Hafiz al-Asad from 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the YAR.

ALGERIA

ALGIERS SPECULATES ON CARTER, AS-SADAT, BEGIN SUMMIT

LD090920Y Algiers APS in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--Today's ASH-SHA'B devotes an article to the tripartite summit which will include U.S. President Carter, Zionist entity Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Anwar as-Sadat. The summit is slated for 5 September. The article is headlined: Rescue Attempt:

Can President Carter's invitation bring As-Sadat's initiative--or rather the American solution--to life again? What are the new factors that can move the Egyptian-Zionist negotiations in a direction that is at least satisfactory to the theatrical maneuvers of President as-Sadat? Has Israel changed its expansionist policy overnight and decided to make certain "concessions" to As-Sadat, who has given everything?

The results of the Leeds Castle meeting, which was described as a meeting which would open the deadlock in Egyptian-Israeli negotiations, can serve as a clear indication of what may result from the forthcoming tripartite meeting. The American attempt, in fact, is nothing but an endeavor to satisfy As-Sadat's anger at the intransigence of his friend Begin, who has refused to respond to the smallest demands on the part of the former despite the considerable concessions he has given gratis--namely his visit to Jerusalem, his recognition of Israel, his ignoring the rights of the Palestinian people, and his stabbing in the back of Arab solidarity.

Despite the active role played by some parties who support the American solution--ranging from silence to public support to As-Sadat's initiative--the results of such a move will be very limited.

If the forthcoming meeting produces any results, it will be a new Israeli embezzlement--that is, the gaining of developed weapons and financial aid to offset "concessions" that would allow the consolidation of the position of America's friends and allies in the area, in particular As-Sadat's regime. The As-Sadat regime is suffering from stifling crises at home and abroad, but will Carter be able to pressure Begin while he (Carter) is the prisoner of the Zionist pressure groups, the American elections game, and the alliance of imperialist-Zionist interests in the area? Israel knows very well that it has become the main force in the area, and that it is capable of dictating its terms after As-Sadat's initiative destroyed the effective Arab solidarity weapon.

BOUTEFLIKA ADDRESS TO 28 JULY SESSION OF NONALINED CONFERENCE

LD081315Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 30 Jul 78 p 12 LD

[Apparent text of Algerian Foreign Minister Abdelaziz Bouteflika's 28 July speech at Belgrade nonalined ministerial conference: "Our Concern Centers on Phenomenon of Foreign Military Interventions"]

[Excerpt] Western Sahara: Political Problem Which Cannot Be Resolved by Force:

Mr Chairman, Algeria's loyalty to the principles of nonalinement which constantly underlie its foreign policy requires us to support struggling peoples the world over and champion their right to self-determination and independence. It was therefore quite natural that Algeria should be on the side of the Saharan people from the outset. The Western Sahara problem is a problem of decolonization. The United Nations, the OAU, the nonalined movement and the international court of justice have unequivocably confirmed the right of the people of this territory to self-determination.

But, in spite of all these decisions, the administrating power and two of our movement's member countries concluded an agreement in 1975 which paved the way for forcible occupation and partition of the territory.

For 3 years now a veritable war of extermination has been waged against the Saharan people, who are relentlessly resisting a joint expeditionary corps of about 70,000 men. The disparity between the opposing forces makes it possible to imagine the extent of the suffering and sacrifices imposed on these people. For its part, the French military intervention has shed a glaring light on the nature of this dangerous undertaking. This intervention is part of an overall imperialist strategy aimed at undermining the independence of African countries and the security of the continent. The West Sahara conflict thus assumes an international dimension whose consequences are unpredictable.

It is clear that this conflict is a political problem which cannot possibly be resolved by force. Mauritania, although it has always shown concern for its own national independence, has been dragged into a disastrous adventure, as a result of its twofold dependence. Whatever explanations may be suggested, the latest developments in this country are a direct result of the conflict.

In deciding on a unilateral cease-fire, the POLISARIO has unquestionably taken a step of considerable significance. In our view, there is now a serious opportunity to promote a movement toward peace. In this context it is desirable to reaffirm that Algeria cherishes no ambitions and has no claims to make. It has no bilateral dispute with either Morocco or Mauritania. The only dispute existing is the one between the Saharan people and those who occupy their national territory. Any settlement of the conflict is therefore dependent on a free choice by the Saharan people, who must determine their own future in full sovereignty. From Timor to Belize, via West Sahara, we find the same problem, requiring the same solution.

In the case of Western Sahara, the trials inflicted on our region, painful as they are, are not insurmountable if we can win acceptance for a forward-looking strategy, toward which the united destiny of our peoples, including the Saharan people, converges and can put aside attitudes based on narrowminded nationalism and a backward-looking, anachronistic outlook.

Military Solidarity With Patriotic Front and SWAPO:

The situation in southern Africa also gives rise to legitimate anxiety and calls for special attention at the present time. At a time when the dynamics of liberation are giving a decisive impetus to the struggle of African peoples, the racist regimes of Pretoria and Salisbury, with the help of powerful Western alliances, are trying to obstruct the normal process of decolonization.

As well as seeking to create artificial divisions among the populations they subject to a regime of terror and oppression, the racist forces engage in repeated attacks against the frontline countries performing their fraternal duty of solidarity with and support for national liberation movements. At any rate, may we express our militant solidarity with the Patriotic Front and the South West African People's Organization.

At such decisive moments, our movement has a duty to unmask all strategems aimed at postponing solutions liable to restore peace in freedom and dignity. By precipitating the collapse of a particularly threatening bastion of the imperialist strategy in Africa we will undoubtedly help to inflict a final defeat on all policies of ambition, domination and exploitation directed against the continent as a whole.

Total Deadlock in Middle East:

On another front, contrary to the carefully maintained facade of optimism, the Middle East situation, far from evolving toward a satisfactory position, is constantly deteriorating. This exacerbation is of course due to the obstinacy of the Zionist invaders who, by their repeated acts of aggression, continue to defy the world community. While at the international level the situation is completely deadlocked, the Palestinian people, under the guidance of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, continue to put up a resistance which is all the more dogged because they are the victims of maneuvers aimed at liquidating their national cause.

In other words, over and above our constant demand for total liberation of all the Arab occupied territories and restoration of the Palestinian people's national rights, we would like to launch from this platform an urgent appeal to the whole international community, and above all the nonalined countries, to give the PLO political, moral and material support commensurate with the enormity of the conspiracy directed against the fraternal people of Palestine.

No Safety for Our Movement Without Unity in Ranks:

Mr Chairman, from Belgrade to Belgrade, throughout two decades steeped in history, the nonalined movement has given another dimension and a new outlook to international life. It has instigated events and punctuated them with its demands. It has exorcised the misfortunes of the past and led our peoples toward commitment and action. Its role is now recognized as vital in any search for a solution to the major problems of our time. Such a role has only been made possible by unity in our ranks and the clarity of our aims. The unity in the ranks which we like to emphasize here stems neither from a subjective approach nor from an idealistic view of things. Without it and outside it there can be no safety for our movement and hence for our individual independence. The clarity of aims stems quite naturally from the constituent principles of a political current which over the years has acquired an increasingly varied membership and a broader and broader power base. There is some talk today of a split between what is considered the leftwing and the rightwing of the movement. What is the truth of the matter? Certainly there are countries which have espoused the policy of nonalinement on the international front and abide by its principles to such an extent that, whatever the cost, they make no distinction between it and their own foreign policy. Others, however, may not yet have achieved all the objective conditions for putting it fully into effect. Thus, although we are open and favor enlarging our fighting basis, this cannot be undertaken at the expense of certain ethics, without which the movement would bear more resemblance to a vast collection of contradictions merging at best into a state of mind lacking influence or impact on events. Hence, just as we would like to salute the arrival of Djibouti, a fraternal and friendly country, we would like to say that, inasmuch as the interest shown in our actions by certain countries such as Pakistan, Romania and Portugal is a start toward dissolving the military pacts and a setback for the bloc policy, we can only express satisfaction at this trend and the positive implications it holds for international detente and security.

Nonalined Nations Must Not Espouse Any Ideological Quarrel:

Mr Chairman, the nonalined movement is at a decisive turning point in its history. The combined action of our peoples to rid themselves of colonialism, their daily fight against underdevelopment and for the establishment of a new world order, their unshakable determination to safeguard their individual characteristics and preserve their independence have all shown the nonalined countries' ability to assume an independent, sovereign destiny which does not rule out natural solidarity with all the forces for progress and peace in the world.

It is true that our movement is experiencing problems inherent in its special structure, its composition and the size of its membership, but these difficulties are exacerbated to a large extent by the present international situation.

The nonalined movement must not, therefore, espouse any ideological quarrel. It must not be the stake in world rifts nor transpose within its ranks a crisis in international relations which is totally alien to its principles and interests. The collective destiny of our peoples calls for solidarity and a common search for political solutions to the crises affecting us.

The achievement of harmonious coexistence among ourselves, despite our different socio-economic systems, of necessity depends--need we emphasize?--on mutual respect for our sovereignty, our territorial integrity and the right of peoples to self-determination. Strong in this belief we, for our part, intend to prepare for the summit in Havana, a forward post in the anti-imperialist struggle and fraternal solidarity among peoples.

LIBYA

TRIPOLI COMMENTS ON POLICY TOWARD JALLUD'S PRC VISIT

LD0823402 Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Aug 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Chinese now believe that there are three worlds: the capitalist bloc, the socialist bloc,and the Third World. They advocate the three as though each could be substituted for the others, or stand in opposition to them. There may be those who listen to and respond to such a theory, in one way or another; however, there is disagreement over the manner of confrontation. Are the three worlds totally at loggerheads or are there opportunities for coming together, to a great or lesser degree? The recent Chinese-Albanian dispute was over this point and some of the Arab states might disagree with China over this point. However, the Arab states need a world power, or world powers, sufficiently advanced in the scientific, technological and industrial fields to supply them with the equipment, factories and technical know-how, particularly since some or all of the Arab states are in the process of developing and therefore require a good deal of positive international cooperation.

Thus, the majority of developing countries, the Arab states in their forefront, have found in the socialist bloc a friendly ally, in spite of ideological or social differences. Such differences are in the nature of the prevailing ideologies on either side. Thus, the Soviet Union became a main source of arms for numerous developing Third World countries. Other socialist states took part in development projects in developing countries, especially in providing the expertise of their companies in construction and research. This has been particularly true of the Jamahiriyah. Such cooperation was reinforced by the recent visit of the leader of the Glorious 1 September Revolution to countries of the socialist bloc.

The countries of the Third World cannot pretend that the socialist bloc is a remote or hostile party. Far from it. They act on the assumption that the socialist bloc is a friendly ally in the fight against two deadly enemies: underdevelopment on the one hand, and imperialism, racialism and Zionism on the other. Inevitably, there have been frequent meetings within regional and international gatherings between Africans, Asians and Latin Americans and between members of the socialist bloc. Among themselves, these two blocs discussed contentious problems in a reasonably harmonious manner, but it is always a manner very different from what they get from the United States and Western Europe.

Despite this fact, China remains an [few indistinct words] Asiatic power. It cannot be ignored, and must be reckoned with. The mistake the Arabs have made vis-a-vis China is that they have relied on the fact that China would be consistently on their side. It is true that China has always supported the Arab cause; but there is no such thing as an immutable situation. Circumstances change and necessitate a change of attitude accordingly. New facts have obliged China to reemerge from its isolation, reappear on the world stage, and to become particularly active in the Third World and in Europe. If in its new activities China is impelled by its own circumstances, then it is up to us Arabs to go to China, talk to China and listen to China. We must reassure it that our views are close to its views, bring its views closer to ours; we must bring China to a closer understanding of our problems and national needs.

The Arabs may accept or reject the new Chinese orientation, but they do not disagree with China one bit, nor can China disagree with them, for national disagreements and economic, political or cultural rivalries hardly exist between the Arabs and the Chinese people. China is an energetic world power with a great future: It follows that forward-looking Arab thinking is the kind which knows how to build bridges between itself and up-and-coming powers, especially since the Arabs have vested interest in an international system based on cooperation and mutual development.

Thus, we believe that the Jamahiriyah, whose diplomatic activities span the entire world, is not ignoring China. It has sent one of its prominent revolutionary leaders to China. We believe that 'Abd as-Salam Jallud's visit to Peking has a specific importance; special circumstances have made it essential and its timing is connected with special circumstances relating to China.

JANA ON AT-TURAYKI'S TALKS IN PEKING WITH HUANG HUA

LD081840Y Tripoli JANA in English 0920 GMT 8 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Peking, 8 August, JANA--The Libyan-Chinese political committee last night resumed its meetings at the People's Hall in Peking. The Libyan side was headed by Foreign Secretary Dr 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, while the Chinese side was headed by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Huang Hua.

JANA's correspondent in Peking said that the committee discussed means and ways of consolidating and strengthening bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab homeland and means of supporting the peoples of the Third World.

YAR FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY ARRIVES

LD081746Y Tripoli JANA in English 1633 GMT 8 Aug 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 8 August JANA--Mr Ahmad Haydar, under-secretary for foreign affairs in the Yemen Arab Republic, arrived in Tripoli today on a one-day visit to the Jamahiriyah. He was received at Tripoli International Airport by the assistant-under secretary for political affairs at the Foreign Secretariat and the Yemeni ambassador to the Jamahiriyah.

MOROCCO

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON SPANISH SAHARA

LD090741Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Aug 78 LD

[Text] In an interview with the Italian news agency ANSA, M'hamed Boucetta, the Moroccan minister for foreign affairs and cooperation, said that Morocco is ready to discuss with Algeria all the problems connected with putting an end to tension in Northwest Africa, even though Morocco was not responsible for the tension. He said he believed that a solution could be found to a number of problems within the framework of the Arab Maghreb. He confirmed that Morocco could never accept barriers which would separate her from Mauritania and Africa.

Boucetta said that everything is open to discussion, except matters which impinge on Morocco's sovereignty or territorial unity. He said Morocco would accept an investigating commission, be it sponsored by the United Nations or the OAU, to canvass the opinions of all the 750,000 inhabitants of the Sahara, and see whether they wish to remain under Moroccan sovereignty.

Concerning the new regime in Nouakchott, the minister said that Mauritania's new leaders have done nothing to damage the treaty of friendship and the joint defense agreement between Morocco and Mauritania. Politically, said Boucetta, the Mauritanian Government had complete freedom to direct its own affairs. Morocco will not intervene in any way. As far as the security of Mauritania was concerned, Boucetta confirmed that the Moroccan armed forces are always ready to repulse any possible attack by Algeria.

INFORMATION MINISTER PROPOSES SAHARA DIALOG

LD081656Y Rabat MAP in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Aug 78 LD

[Summary] Paris--Mohamed Larbi Khattabi, Moroccan minister of information, has written an article for the magazine AN-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AD-DUWALI of Paris. He says the following among other things:

"The bloody conflict the Arab Maghreb region has been witnessing for more than two years is really the result of fabricated problems which do not stand on objective bases. Nor is it justified by reasons warranting the existence of a conflict or its prolongation.

When I say that the reasons for the conflict are fabricated, I fully mean what I say.

"Sincerity to the truth obliges us to say that what is taking place in the Arab Maghreb is a conflict in which Algeria is playing the role of the instigator and director, for it arms the POLISARIO Front and trains its members militarily and ideologically. It has undertaken to finance it along with another sister Arab state, for POLISARIO emanates from Algeria under the command of Algerian officers. To Algeria it returns. It is there that the POLISARIO is supplied with Soviet equipment. It gets its instructions and orders from the Algerian military and political leaders. The Algerian media are disseminating a propaganda campaign against Morocco."

In the presence of Arab kings and an Arab president at the Rabat summit conference in October 1974, President Boumediene said that he had agreed on the return of the Sahara to Mauritania and Morocco in his meeting with King Hassan II and President Ould Daddah. Morocco has retrieved its territories from Spain in the north of the country.

As to the Sahara, we were the first to demand a referendum. This took place in 1966. Spain held a referendum in 1973, but it was faked. Morocco rejected it. Then came the Madrid agreement in 1975 between Morocco, Mauritania and Spain.

"The matter ended by the granting of a right to Morocco and Mauritania to bring about their territorial and national integrity. But Algeria, for ambiguous reasons, changed the stand expressed by its president at the Rabat Arab summit conference. So Algerian regular forces marched into the Sahara from the areas close to its borders, bringing Saharan groups to Tindouf, turning the Spanish Army against Morocco and forming fighting groups of people having no connection with former Spanish Sahara, and establishing what it termed the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR], exercising command over people who are mostly non-Saharan and who oppose Morocco and Mauritania.

Suffice it to mention Hakim Ibrahim, the SDAR foreign minister who is Mauritanian and who until recently worked as secretary in the Mauritanian Embassy in Algiers; and the list of such persons is very long.

Moroccan foreign policy is based on firm principles, including respect for the social, economic and political regimes of other states. Our aspirations for national integrity have nothing to do with the natural resources of the Sahara. We asked for the return of the Sahara in 1956. Many prominent figures in the Sahara expressed loyalty to King Mohamed V on his return from exile in 1955. "We will now speak about the potential solutions that could put an end to the bitter conflict--the topic of this talk. "In this respect I am going to give a personal view so as to avoid clashing with the official duties I carry.

"As to the form, I believe that the parties concerned in the conflict--namely Mauritania, Algeria and Morocco--should sit down for a sincere, frank dialog, provided that this is preceded by consultations and contacts on an unofficial level to pave the way for the official dialog with the possible participation of another party, represented by a sister state or by Arab and African states whose views and status are respected by the other parties concerned. Armed operations should cease before the start of the dialogue.

"As to the subject matter, the following issues, in my view, should be central to the discussion:

"First, to investigate the real causes;

"Second, to proceed from the principle of the Unity of Arab Maghreb economically, socially and politically on the basis of cooperation, integration and consultation;

"Third, to respect the territorial integrity of all countries concerned--namely Mauritania, Algeria and Morocco--within the framework of peaceful coexistence between different regimes, and in consideration for the (?unionist) objectives in which the Arab peoples of the Mashiriq and Maghreb believe;

"Fourth, to establish an all-round plan to be agreed on for cooperation in all spheres. The special African committee approved by the Khartoum conference recently can play a positive, constructive role in that respect.

"In any case any dialog or negotiations should lead toward a solution of the question of Saharans held in Tindouf, by returning them to their country and people. When I say Saharans I mean those who really belong to the Moroccan Sahara, which under colonialism was called 'Spanish Sahara.'

"Well, the Moroccan people are looking forward wholeheartedly to peace, accord and settlement [safa] among the brethren in order that the peoples of Arab Maghreb may jointly proceed to build the future on the basis of security, integrity, and social and economic prosperity."

TUNISIA

FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTS ON OAU, NONALINED MEETINGS

LD081427Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 30 Jul 78 p 3 LD

[TAP report]

[Excerpts] Yesterday at dawn Foreign Minister Mohamed Fitouri returned to Tunis after participating in the work of the 31st session of the OAU foreign ministers' conference and the summit conference in Khartoum and the conference of foreign ministers of nonalined countries in Belgrade.

In a statement made to the TUNIS-AFRICA PRESS AGENCY on his arrival at Tunis-Carthage airport, Mr. Fitouri emphasized that the OAU "summit," in which many heads of state and government participated, proved of great importance inasmuch as it made it possible to consider some questions of major importance for the future and stability of the African Continent.

Mr. Mohamed Fitouri also stated that he had met several African heads of state and government and foreign ministers in Khartoum. "As a result," he said, "I realized how greatly Tunisia and its president are generally respected."

Referring to his participation in the conference of foreign ministers of nonalined countries in Belgrade, Mr. Fitouri stated that this conference took place at a time when the movement of nonalined countries is confronted with many challenges and when international relations are going through a critical phase.

All the participants, he said, emphasized the weight of the bloc of nonalined countries on the international scene and stressed the need to safeguard solidarity and coordination among nonalined countries with a view to achieving the objectives determined by the founders of the movement, including President Bourguiba. The participants examined a certain number of important questions, especially the problem of establishing a new world economic order which would insure respect for the interests of the Third World. The questions of strengthening horizontal cooperation among nonalined countries and creating a fairer and better balanced new world information order were also considered.

With reference to this, the minister stated that the Belgrade conference noted with satisfaction progress achieved in the sphere of change in and emancipation of information and that the efforts made by Tunisia in its role of coordinator among nonalined countries in the sphere of information were greatly appreciated.

Mr. Mohamed Fitouri also stated that, in accordance with the recommendations made at the meeting of labor and social affairs ministers from nonalined countries which took place in Tunisia in May 1978, he informed the conference about the results of that meeting.

The minister added that the participants in the conference reiterated their support for the Palestinian cause and condemned Israel's policy of aggression and expansion.

They also expressed their support for liberation movements in Africa and came out in favor of arms limitation. Furthermore, Mr. Fitouri thanked the Yugoslav Government for its efforts to insure the success of the conference and said that he had several meetings with Yugoslav leaders and some foreign ministers present at the conference.

The foreign minister stated that the extraordinary conference which took place within the framework of the Arab League with the participation of league members ended, despite its unofficial character, in complete agreement with respect to resolutions relating to the Palestinian cause and the Middle East problem which the Arab group was to submit to the conference of nonalined countries.

In conclusion, Mr. Fitouri stated that that "this meeting took place in a fraternal atmosphere marked with good will."

Tunisia welcomes this kind of initiative and has worked in its support.

TRIPARTITE SUMMIT TO BE HELD AT CAMP DAVID 5 SEPTEMBER

TA081735Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Aug 78 TA

[From the evening newsreel]

[Excerpts] President Carter has invited Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat for a tripartite meeting in Washington on 5 September, the White House spokesman has announced. Prime Minister Menahem Begin and President as-Sadat have accepted the invitation. Begin said that he and President as-Sadat owe President Carter many thanks for his courageous initiative.

The prime minister gave his consent to participate in the Washington meeting the day before yesterday, as soon as he finished reading the personal message President Carter had sent him. He gave his consent in a private talk with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Begin added that he is sending wishes for success to Mr Vance in Alexandria. He also said that he hopes the meeting in Washington will yield the positive results which both our nation and other nations aspire to in order to bring about the long sought-for peace in the Middle East.

Our political correspondent Shalom Qital reports that the prime minister made his announcement from the place where he is vacationing. Our correspondent adds that U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis contacted Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and told him that the Egyptian president agreed to participate in the meeting.

The White House spokesman said that so far the duration of the talks has not been determined; only its date and location. He added that President Carter feels that it is important to continue the movement toward peace for the benefit of the entire world and for that of the Middle East. The president does not expect the meeting at Camp David to achieve an arrangement, but he is convinced that the talks will greatly decrease the differences between Egypt and Israel.

The President's spokesman further said that the results of the September meeting will most probably encourage Egypt and Israel to meet again for direct talks.

Prior to that, sources in the U.S. Senate said that the meeting will take place at Camp David, the President's vacation home near Washington. The first reports on the upcoming event came after President Carter had talked about his initiative with several senators even before the official announcement was made.

In Alexandria, where U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is to meet with President as-Sadat tonight, there is now an atmosphere of optimism which has been reflected in the words of the correspondents covering the meeting.

Senator Richard Stone said he believes the changes for reaching a political arrangement between Egypt and Israel are now the best. Senator Stone, who was the first to report on the tripartite meeting between the Israeli prime minister and President as-Sadat and President Carter, answered questions by our correspondents in a telephone talk. He said that the United States will not bring its own proposals to the tripartite meeting.

Begin Press Conference

TA081908Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1801 GMT 8 Aug 78 TA

[Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin press conference in Tel Aviv on 8 August--live]

[Text] Let us transfer to Bet Sokolov, to the press conference with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and to you, Shalom Qital.

[Qital] The prime minister has just arrived. He will begin with a statement in Hebrew and later in English. Let us hear his words.

[Begin--in English]...the Anglo-Saxon part of the press conference for indulgence, with a little patience until I finish in our own tongue. [Begin--in Hebrew] As I have already said in my announcement, on Sunday morning at 0930, before the meeting of the U.S. and Israeli delegations began, the U.S. secretary of state and I got together alone in my office. The secretary of state, Mr Vance, gave me a personal hand-written message from U.S. President Carter. I read the message, as the secretary of state requested, to its end. The invitation to come to a tripartite meeting with the U.S. President and the Egyptian president appeared in about the middle of the message. After I finished reading, a very short while after I finished reading it, I told Mr Vance that I accepted the U.S. President's proposal and invitation. This agreement was given according to the nature of things, because we have always said we would be prepared to hold any such tripartite meeting--for example, at Umm Khushayb, or in any other place--as had been suggested by the United States, and without prior conditions. That is why I could unhesitatingly--knowing that this is the cabinet's position--tell Mr Vance that indeed I accepted the U.S. President's proposal. And on that very same day I sent a cable to the President and thanked him in comprehensive language which was comprehensible only to him, but not to others who read the cable, for his courageous initiative.

Both in the letter from the U.S. President and in the talk with the secretary of state, I had been asked to keep this completely confidential. And as you can see, we have kept it, so that if any leak came, it came from the United States and not from us until the last moment. I would like to express my satisfaction over President as-Sadat's agreement to take part in this tripartite meeting and I also have reason to congratulate Secretary of State Vance on his special success in carrying out his delicate diplomatic mission. Many feared that his mission would fail; I told him: If you succeed in bringing about a Camp David meeting between the U.S. President, President as-Sadat and myself, then your mission can be crowned with success, and indeed one must congratulate Secretary of State Vance on this success.

I am glad President as-Sadat gave his consent and I would like to express my hope that the results of this meeting will be positive and will bring peace closer, or help attain the long-sought peace in the Middle East, as our nations want--I believe in this: both the Egyptian and the Israeli people [want it]--and as the nations want--many hope for it and pray for it.

Questions, please.

[Qital] Mr Prime Minister, in light of the tripartite meeting between the Egyptian president, the U.S. President and yourself, was Israel asked to change its position somewhat? Because Egypt said that if we did not change our position, it would not negotiate with us.

[Answer] The answer to your question is in the negative, that is--in content it is positive: Israel was not asked to change its position and it did not change it. We are very happy that no preconditions were put--either on the part of Israel or on the part of Egypt--to holding this meeting.

[Qital] What do you expect will happen at this meeting? What do you hope to achieve?

[Answer] As usual, as you know, Mr Qital, I am an optimistic man, so are the Israeli people. We shall hope for the best.

[Yosi La'or] Mr Begin, you are optimistic; however, in such a meeting, besides the chances there are also risks. Do you not fear that after a meeting at the highest level, if it should not constitute an advancement, the dead end would indeed be dead?

[Answer] Listen, my dear sir, there is no doubt that besides chances there are also risks. However, anyone who does not take risks--what could he do these days in our world? Everyone ought to take risks. I must point out that first of all President Carter took risks upon himself, he is the initiator, and each of us--President as-Sadat and I--we, too, are taking risks. One should take them. It is better to take risks for the sake of peace than for the sake of war.

[La'or] We have heard unofficial statements by Egyptian officials in Alexandria as if--as they put it--there have been slight changes in Israel's position.

[Answer] There were no such changes. Sometimes officials know less than reporters do. [laughter]

[La'or] Mr Begin, you met President as-Sadat twice: once in Jerusalem and once in Ismailia. We all remember the special atmosphere that prevailed at these two meetings. What is your attitude now toward President as-Sadat, after the unprecedented attacks by him and his press?

[Answer] I intend to tell President as-Sadat--when I meet him, with the help of God, and should I beg your pardon for having said with the help of God? No, there is no need for it--when I meet him, I intend to tell him what I tell you now: Even in the hardest days, when I had to read or hear words of vilification from the other side of the border, I kept a sentiment for President as-Sadat because of his visit to Jerusalem, even though at the same time I stated that he wanted peace but that the conditions as he presented them might bring the threat of annihilation to the state of Israel, and they were therefore unacceptable to Israel. However, I have kept that sentiment in my heart and I will continue to keep it because of his visit, his attitude, because of his statement to me in Jerusalem: You are my friend. So even words of vilification for several months cannot in such a short time ruin the good relations as they were established between us in the two meetings. What happened, happened. But one must always know how to turn a new page, and I hope that at Camp David indeed a new page in the relations between us will be turned.

[Qital] Since this concerns a meeting not only between you and President as-Sadat but with President Carter, too, who is the one who assembled you, who is the initiator? Do you expect the United States to submit its own proposals? Have you heard any hint to that effect?

[Answer] No. I have not heard any hint to that effect and I hope that there will be no need for it. Because, ultimately, why should the United States deviate from its path. Suppose it submits its own plan. Isn't it conceivable that this plan might not please either Egypt or Jerusalem? That may well be. Why, then, should the United States submit its own plan, when its intention and the purpose of its policy is to bring the parties to direct negotiations, as was stated in the platforms of both the Democratic and the Republican Parties during the latest presidential elections? So the entire U.S. people have committed themselves to the elected administration and the elected president making efforts to bring the parties to direct, face-to-face negotiations. Why should the United States deviate from such an important commitment which was approved by the vote of tens of millions of Americans?

[Qital] Since the talks at Leeds Castle, there has been at least one amendment to Israel's position, and this is the three articles Moshe Dayan read at the Knesset. I suppose you will leave [for the United States] equipped with this position of Israel's...

[Answer--interrupting] Why, this is the cabinet's position, it is not the position of the foreign minister.

[Qital] Would you be prepared now to clarify what Israel means when it says: if the other party proposed a territorial compromise, we would be prepared to discuss it?

[Answer] Mr Qital, leave something for the conference between President as-Sadat, President Carter and myself. Otherwise soon nothing will be left to be said there. But I want to tell you, I meant exactly what he wrote.

[Moderator] Gentlemen, last question in Hebrew. Sha'ul Ben-Hayyim.

[Ben-Hayyim] A meeting at such a level usually marks the end of a [word indistinct] way, an ending, perhaps signing an agreement. Do you hope to get an agreement?

[Answer] If what you call the ending is signing an agreement, then of course all of us will bless this. But in general, my dear sirs, there is no meeting that one can say is the end [sof]; an ending [siyyum] perhaps, I hope it will be good. And we hope for the best out of this meeting. If God wills, when we are fortunate enough to sign peace agreements, then you can talk--but not, God forbid, of an end, but of an ending, a favorable ending. However, for this purpose we are toiling and we shall continue to toil, and may it materialize.

[Moderator] Gentlemen, here we turn to English....

[Qital] At this point, I am returning the broadcast to the studio. If there are new things in the English, we shall report on them later. Back to the studio.

Duration, Agenda Not Set

TA082018Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 8 Aug 78 TA

[Excerpt] Mr Begin said that so far there is no agenda for the tripartite meeting and there is no time limit. President Carter has set aside time and perhaps the meeting will take 2 days, maybe even 3 or 4 days.

Yadin Reaction

TA081811Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newreel--interview with Deputy Prime Minister and acting Prime Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin by Sara Frankel--live in Bet Agron in Jerusalem]

[Text] [Question] Professor Yadin, would it be accurate to assume that Vance's visit to the region--to Jerusalem and Alexandria--was aimed at obtaining agreement to the tripartite meeting?

[Answer] As we have just heard from the prime minister, this was one of the aims. The main aim was to find paths for the resumption of negotiations between Israel and Egypt. One of the possibilities--and we are all happy that this is the one that came about--was the holding of a tripartite summit meeting between the prime minister, President as-Sadat and President Carter. But, of course, all kinds of other possibilities were discussed. When Vance left us he could not, of course, know what the Egyptian president's reaction would be. As we have just heard, the prime minister, who knew about this from a private conversation--he was the only one to know about this--gave a positive reply. However, until we received a positive reply from there [Egypt] it was impossible to know [if the meeting would take place] at all. Therefore, all the possibilities were discussed vis-a-vis efforts to resume the talks. This is the best and most desirable solution. I also believe that it will provide a possibility for the resumption of personal contact between President as-Sadat and Mr Begin--a contact that is of great importance to advance the negotiations.

[Question] Further to your remarks, one can understand that this tripartite meeting is aimed first of all at improving the atmosphere against the background of, let us call it, the rather unpleasant names coming from all directions and going in all directions which, perhaps, created a rather unpleasant atmosphere.

[Answer] I cannot exactly say what is the real aim. I can say that in modern diplomacy--of the past 20 to 30 years--we have seen that there are stages in all negotiations and meetings, with the only way to break through a deadlock being a meeting between national leaders. I think that this is the main aim. I said that as a byproduct, since it is people who are conducting negotiations and not machines, the relations between those participating in the negotiations is important. I hope that a byproduct of this will be a return to the atmosphere that reigned between President as-Sadat and the prime minister at the first meetings, and I hope that this will be an element that will help advance the negotiations.

[Question] Was there a prior condition to this meeting? Did Israel make a commitment in advance? Did the prime minister give an advance commitment?

[Answer] I cannot speak about a prior condition for this meeting because, as we have heard from the prime minister, this was a private talk and not part of the deliberations that took place. However, I can repeat that no prior conditions or demand for prior conditions were presented by us with regard to the resumption of any kind of negotiations. On the contrary, what we asked was that there be no prior condition from President as-Sadat. On our part, we repeated and stressed our position as manifested at the Leeds conference and later in the Knesset that there are some points of progress, in our opinion, in the negotiations. I want to mention explicitly the third clause in the remarks by the foreign minister--who spoke on behalf of the government to the Knesset--to the effect that if it would be helpful to advancing the negotiations--I am not repeating this verbatim--that Israel declare that after 5 years the problem of sovereignty would be discussed, then this could be solved. We stated this and other things to Vance and we stressed this and I assume that he also informed President as-Sadat of this. We were not asked for any prior condition to any meeting and this has already been said.

[Question] In the past there was talk about the possibility of a tripartite meeting of this nature but no such meeting was scheduled. And now, all of a sudden and quite unexpectedly, it has been scheduled. What, in your opinion, brought this about--especially at this time?

[Answer] Well, I think that the reason is simple. The negotiations reached a deadlock--not because of Israel but because of apparent demands for prior conditions around which it was impossible to conduct negotiations. It is possible that President as-Sadat had considerations in expressing his positions as he did. Well, at this time--and I think that from this point of view President Carter's initiative, as the prime minister said, was brave--this is a very important decision, to propose these negotiations--when a situation of deadlock was created because of one reason or another, this is a way in which to break through. And I think that As-Sadat as well [sentence incomplete] as I think I told you in a broadcast of the Weekly Newsreel, the desire of Israel and Egypt and the necessity for Israel and Egypt to continue the negotiations is so strong that I am sure today that it is out of the question that no way be found. If this is the path then it is a very important path.

[Question] Let me put it another way. In the past we have heard voices from the United States along the lines that if Israel and Egypt did not find a point of meeting between them, the United States would make proposals of its own. Recently officials in the United States have said that for the time being the United States would not do so. The question is, why did Carter find it necessary to invite both As-Sadat and the prime minister to Washington? Was it to prevent the United States from having to submit its own proposals?

[Answer] No. I would repeat what I have said in the way I did. Since things reached a deadlock, this [breakthrough] could only be accomplished at this level, with all the prestige behind the invitation from the U.S. President--I think that this was the main reason. Again, the Americans have stated that they will not submit any plan of their own. I do not believe they will do so because they know that if this were a plan that did no meet Israel's basic needs, then Israel would be unable to accept it. However, it is quite possible that in the negotiations--at this meeting or at another--they might, from time to time, raise ideas for discussion. This might, of course, take place. I do not think that this is the aim of the tripartite meeting.

[Frankel] Thank you, Professor Yadin.

Peres Reaction

TA081835Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel--interview with Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres by studio announcer--live by telephone]

[Text] [Question] We have the opposition party chairman, MK Shim'on Peres, on the telephone. Good evening to you, Mr Peres.

[Answer] A very good evening.

[Question] You have heard the news and we would like to hear a first reaction from you, sir.

[Answer] I am very pleased with this news. I welcome the meeting and attribute supreme importance to it. I am very glad about the meeting between Prime Minister Begin and Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat in the presence and under the chairmanship of the U.S. President. I would say that this is a most rare occasion of greatest value even though it is by no means an easy test for the politicians and leaders of the two sides. First of all, I wish Mr Begin complete success in the meeting. We have about a month until the meeting takes place. I assume that until then there will be feelers and clarifications because the initial position is not one of agreement. The Egyptian position is unacceptable to us, and the Arabs have also been critical of our plan. However, despite this, the logic behind the meeting is that at a time when there is no agreement there is, in my opinion, a chance to bridge the lack of agreement--the gap that exists. I personally have been convinced for a very long time that even though there are differences and significant gaps there certainly is a chance to bridge them. No one can say this with any certainty.

Nine months after President as-Sadat's visit a chance has now been created--one can call this the chance of a summit--to advance and see if we can bring peace to the whole of the area--peace between Egypt and us. All the time I have had the [word indistinct] feeling that the hourglass was nearly empty, and this, of course, gives new momentum and a new chance to turn the visit and initiative and the chance for peace into a new political reality.

[Question] MK Peres, was the possibility of a tripartite meeting between Begin, As-Sadat and Carter raised in the conversation that you had with As-Sadat in Salzburg?

[Peres] We talked about meetings and I, of course, recommended a meeting, but I cannot say that I recommended a meeting of this specific nature--a tripartite meeting. I thought it would be good if President as-Sadat were to meet with Mr Begin to clarify the points that must be resolved at the highest political level--between the prime minister and the Egyptian president.

[Announcer] Thank you very much, MK Shim'on Peres.

Press Comment

TA090830Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Aug 78 TA

[From a review of the morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] HAZOFE writes that the tripartite meeting is a dramatic move by President Carter which carries both prospects and risks regarding the deliverance of the Middle East political negotiations from the impasse they have reached in recent months.

The United States apparently feared that unless it took a dramatic initiative the peace process in the Middle East might come to an end. If a foundation is laid at the Camp David talks for the continuation of direct contacts, that will be an important milestone in the political moves toward achieving peace in the Middle East. That will be the test of the tripartite meeting.

HAMODI'A thinks that the turning point came when the United States started to show impatience with President as-Sadat's tactics and openly declared dissatisfaction with his deeds. This apparently made President as-Sadat reconsider his steps and he realized that there was a limit to extortion tactics and that the United States, too, might have a limit to its patience and would not follow endlessly his demands to exert pressure on Israel beyond any reasonable extent. The Egyptian president's intransigence has been insensible and illogical, particularly during the last 2 weeks, when the Israeli Government demonstrated maximum flexibility. The paper says it is not an exaggeration to say that the consent to the tripartite meeting itself constitutes an encouraging breakthrough.

The Jerusalem POST believes that the heaviest responsibility apparently rests on the shoulders of the Americans. A proper blend of decisiveness and sensitivity is required of them. President Carter will have to convince both his guests that his country's influence on Egypt and Israel and the basic interest of bringing about peace in the area are greater than the caprices of extremists in the Arab camp and in Israel. Carter and his senior foreign policy aides will also have to demonstrate great wisdom when the frontiers are charted. It is only reasonable to expect each party to make the painful concessions that are necessary to crown the peace initiative with success.

CABINET TO MEET IN SPECIAL SESSION 10 AUGUST

TA090627Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Aug 78 TA

[Text] According to our political correspondent Shalom Qital, the cabinet will meet in special session tomorrow and will hold a political discussion in anticipation of the tripartite meeting that will take place at Camp David on 5 September with the participation of Jimmy Carter, Menahem Begin and Anwar as-Sadat. Prime Minister Menahem Begin will interrupt his vacation to take part in the cabinet session.

KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETS

TA080950Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 8 Aug 78 TA

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee has met and the meeting is still in progress at this moment. It opened with a heated debate between several Knesset members and the committee chairman. MK's Me'ir Talmi and Yosi Sarid from the Alinement demanded that Chairman Moshe Arens urgently hold a discussion about the government's plans for settlement in the territories. MK Amnon Rubinstein from the DMC supported the demand. The Knesset members claimed that despite their repeated requests, discussion of this matter was delayed, and thus decisions made by the government recently about settlement in the Jordan Valley will not be brought up for discussion at the committee before they are carried out.

The committee chairman, Moshe Arens, said he has already turned to the head of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs, Minister Ari'el Sharon, asking him to appear before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee on this matter.

Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer remarks that two subjects will be discussed at the meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. The head of the manpower branch in the general headquarters, Maj Gen Refa'el Vardi, will report to the committee on the state of manpower in the IDF. The other subject is the situation in Lebanon. The chief of staff, Lt Gen Refa'el Etan, will report to the committee on that subject.

Discussion on S. Lebanon

TA081340Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 8 Aug 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Excerpts] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee concluded its meeting today. The chief of staff appeared before the committee and reported on the Syrian shelling of the Christian quarters and on the situation in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports: [begin recording]

[Schiffer] The report given by the chief of staff to the committee members confirmed previous reports that the aim of the Syrian shellings of Beirut's Christian quarters is to take full control of Lebanon. Two hundred Syrian artillery pieces and several Syrian artillery battalions surrounding the Christian quarters reinforce this assumption. The major conclusion drawn from this picture, according to several committee members, is that Israel should take action.

The head of the committee, Prof Moshe Arens, reiterated his view that the United States supports Syria's steps in Lebanon and is applying pressure on Israel to stop the aid extended to the Christians.

[Arens] We know, or have reason to believe, that the presence of the Syrian Army in Lebanon today, including the attempt to send a battalion into southern Lebanon, enjoys the quiet or tacit support of the U.S. administration.

[Schiffer] The former prime minister, MK Yizhaq Rabin, does not agree with this view and claims that there is no U.S. pressure on Israel to stop the help for the Christians. As for the government's policy on this matter, MK Rabin said he understands the dilemma facing the government. In his opinion, Israel should first resort to political steps to bring about the cessation of the Syrian shelling. As for what should follow, Mr Rabin refused to answer. [end recording]

Arens Remarks

TA082122Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 8 Aug 78 TA

[Excerpt] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today discussed the situation in Lebanon. Chief of Staff Gen Refa'el Eytan reviewed the situation in the two parts of Lebanon [south and north] for the committee members. The central issue at the session was the Syrian shelling of the Christian quarters in Beirut and the Lebanese battalion stuck at Kawkaba. Our Knesset correspondent Moshe Hakohen reports: [begin recording]

[Hakohen] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee is not an executive body. It does not have authority and that is why it does not make operative decisions on political and security affairs. However, it emerged from the content of the majority of the members' words--without reference to differences in political background--that the vast majority of the committee members support the cabinet taking firm steps to prevent the Syrian attempt to destroy the Christians' strength in Lebanon. The committee chairman, MK Moshe Arens, says:

[Arens] I think the Israeli Cabinet should be prepared to do everything that is necessary so that this [shelling] stops and so that we do not stand idle when a people are being massacred in Lebanon.

[Hakohen] In these words you include intervention by force if the need should arise?

[Arens] If this is necessary. In my opinion, one should be prepared for it. I would say that such warnings without any backing are idle warnings in which I do not believe. I think there is a very good chance that if the Syrians receive a real warning through the appropriate channels, it will deter them.

[Hakohen] MK Arens also points out that the United States is pressuring Israel not to aid the Christians but at the same time is helping the Syrians to, in effect, take control over Lebanon.

[Arens] This is reflected in the fact that the U.S. administration recognizes the legitimacy--and as far as we are concerned, the "legitimacy" in quotation marks--of the Syrian Army in Lebanon and of the acts of the Syrian Army in Lebanon. That includes the shelling of the Christians in Beirut and the attempt to infiltrate the so-called Lebanese batallion, a battalion which operates under the auspices of the Syrians and under their leadership, into southern Lebanon, when its purpose is to take control of the Christian enclaves. [end recording]

ARENS INTERVIEWED ON LEBANESE SITUATION

TA082007Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Aug 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpt] In the wake of the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon, the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, Prof Moshe Arens, toured the border. He met with the commanders of the front and heard details of developments in the field. During his tour our correspondent in the north Yehezql Hame'iri, spoke with him. [begin recording]

[Question] Professor Arens, what is the meaning of your visit to the good fence today?

[Answer] I simply want to be brought up to date on events and the situation here.

[Question] Has there been a deterioration in the situation?

[Answer] Not as far as I know, but I have not received any report as yet.

[Question] You have said very serious things about U.S. pressure on Israel. What were you referring to?

[Answer] I was referring to the fact that the presence of the Syrian Army in Lebanon, including the attempt to bring the so-called Lebanese battalion back to the enclaves, enjoys U.S. support.

[Question] Professor Arens, do you take a serious view of the presence of this battalion in Kawkaba?

[Arens] As long as it stays in Kawkaba, I do not view this seriously. However, if it advances into the enclaves I regard this as the beginning of the end of the Christian population in the enclaves.

[Question] There have been rumors that Israel is prepared to allow the passage of the battalion south to Tibnin.

[Answer] I would not agree to that.

[Question] Am I to understand from your remarks that you would oppose such a decision?

[Answer] This is exactly what I have said.

[Question] There are those who maintain that the entire problem of the Lebanese battalion at Kawkaba is a smokescreen to cover what the Syrians are doing in Beirut.

[Answer] I do not know if this is a smokescreen, but there is no doubt that this is part of the same campaign--the campaign for the lives of the Christian community in Lebanon.

[Question] How do you view the future fate of the enclaves?

[Answer] I think the enclaves must continue to exist with a defense force of their own; otherwise there is no hope for the lives of the Christians there.

[Question] You have also said that there might not be any choice but for Israel to become involved in view of the situation in Lebanon. What did you mean?

[Answer] I find it hard to assume that we would remain complacent day after day while the Christian civilian population in Beirut is being murdered.

[Question] There was some Israeli activity when planes were sent over Beirut. Since then Israel's voice on what is happening in Beirut has gone silent? Why?

[Answer] After the overflight things cooled. We were pleased that this happened. However, it appears that since then the Syrians have forgotten this overflight.

[Question] The massacre continues and Israel is silent.

[Answer] That is true. There is room for something to be done.

[Question] Could you elaborate?

[Answer] No. [end recording]

TWO ISRAELI AIRCRAFT OVERFLY BEIRUT 8 AUGUST

TA082013Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Two Israeli Air Force aircraft flew over Beirut this afternoon. The Lebanese Army headquarters has issued an official statement on this matter.

As will be recalled, Israeli aircraft flew at a low altitude over Beirut at the beginning of the month following the previous round of Syrian shelling of the Christian quarters. As is well known, the Syrians have shelled the eastern quarters of Beirut sporadically in the last 72 hours, and our correspondent on Arab affairs remarks that the Christians have several times approached various quarters with a request for help in deterring further Syrians shelling.

NEW MILITIA COMMANDER IN S. LEBANON INTERVIEWED

TA090725Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Aug 78 TA

[From the Morning Newsreel]

[Text] Calm prevailed last night in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon. The commander of the Tigers of the Artillery [Nimrey Hatotahim] militia, whose men shelled the Lebanese battalion encamped at Kawkaba the day before yesterday, explains that he is holding his fire because of a request by Major Sa'd Haddad, commander of the Christian forces in the south. Our correspondent in the north, Yehezq'el Hame'iri, was talking with the commander of the Tigers of the Artillery: [begin recording]

[Hame'iri] We have opened fire and we will open fire again because we cannot remain inactive when the Syrians are slaughtering our brothers and sisters in Beirut. This unambiguous declaration was made by my interviewee who calls himself Abu 'Antar, a meaningful term in Arab folklore, implying something like: the Father of Strength. Abu 'Antar sounds firm and explicit in his declarations: [Abu 'Antar speaks briefly in Arabic] We may yet be carried away by some kind of nervousness, Abu 'Antar threatens, and then we will shell the entire region. And nobody will be able to prevent us from doing this. In fact, there is no guarantee that the (Nimur al-Matfah) men will not surprise us again and resume their fire at any time on the Lebanese battalion which is still stuck at Kawkaba, or on the UNIFIL troops in their vicinity, or that they will not try to break through to the north and devastate everybody--the UNIFIL troops, the disguised Lebanese soldiers or the terrorists.

The ire of the Tigers of the Artillery is especially aroused, according to Abu 'Antar, by the commander of the [regular Lebanese Army] battalion, Ibrahim Shahin, who was among those responsible for the slaughter at Damur, the militia man claims. Whenever we hear his name, he says, the hair on our bodies stands on end. Be that as it may, the introduction of an additional extremist militia to the struggle in southern Lebanon only makes more intransigent the position of the militias, which swore to fight to the last man to prevent the transit of the battalion, or its deployment in the south. [end recording]

LEBANESE CHRISTIANS ASK TO DEMONSTRATE IN JERUSALEM

TA090634Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Aug 78 TA

[Text] A group of youths from the Christian enclaves in southern Lebanon have requested permission to demonstrate in Jerusalem opposite the UN headquarters against UNIFIL policy in their area. They intend to claim that the United Nations was a partner in the attempts to bribe militia commander Sa'd Haddad to leave the area, and that UN personnel do not treat the inhabitants fairly and even incite the Americans against them.

The youths from southern Lebanon are now waiting for permission from the authorities.

BEIRUT CITIZENS VISIT RELATIVES IN ISRAEL

TA082015Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Dozens of Christian citizens of Beirut are in Israel now, visiting their relatives, mostly in the north. Our Haifa correspondent reports that among the visitors are many women and children who came to rest for a while from the battles and the Syrian shelling.

The Israeli authorities are granting them permission to stay for 48 hours. This can, in certain cases, be extended up to 1 month. Usually, the hosts approach the authorities and try to take advantage of this possibility for extension.

MINISTER SHARON URGES INTENSIVE SETTLEMENT DRIVE

TA071524Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 7 Aug 78 TA

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon says we must undertake activity to expand settlements in Judaea and Samaria as soon as possible because, in his view, we are now at the end of an era, after which it will be impossible to do anything in this field. Mr Sharon was speaking during a tour with parliamentary correspondents to settlements that were established in Judaea and Samaria last year.

The agriculture minister revealed that he would submit for cabinet approval a proposal to expand a number of the settlements. In Haris he proposes to construct apartments for 100 more families. The construction of 80 apartments was completed recently, and next week they will be inhabited by members of a nucleus that is linked to the military industry. At Qarne Shomron, extensive preparatory work is under way for the construction of 100 apartments. Mr Sharon will propose that 100 more apartments be constructed on the site. Twenty families of Moshave Bareqet will settle at the new settlement of Tapuah in Samaria next week.

Our correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, gained the impression during the tour that in the new settlements in Judaea and Samaria, extensive preparatory work is being undertaken; the work is being done on projects whose establishment was approved last year.

AMUZEGAR ON GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AIMS

LD0721102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 7 Aug 78 LD

[Excerpts] At the end of a 5-hour cabinet session today, Iranian Prime Minister Mr Jamshid Amuzegar announced in an interview with a correspondent: The government's program of activity for freedom will be published within the next 2 weeks for the Iranian nation to give it judgment. Mr Amuzegar said: The government's success in completing many projects and its failure to attain the desired succes in others has been described in this working paper. Mr Amuzegar said: The cabinet session considered the elections of guilds, the preparation of a project for employing students during the summer vacations, the government's measures for preventing further pollution of the Caspian Sea, Iran's assistance to Abu Dhabi in holding back moving sand dunes and the complaints of both employers and employees. Decisions were taken on these issues.

Mr Amuzegar added: According to the report submitted by the central bank to the government, the rate of inflation was further reduced last month and was 7.9 percent. In other words inflation, which had been running at about 31 percent, has come down to 7.9 percent. The effects of this fall will become evident soon, and the cost of living will not increase at the speed it has been doing; it will reach a reasonable rate.

The prime minister referred to the issue of the renewed elections of guilds: It was decided that the Ministry of the Interior should hold these elections on or around 7 September. These elections will be held within a period of 2 weeks in the capital.

Mr Amuzegar then stressed the training of students in factories and places of work and said: It has been decided that three ministers who have responsibility for this task should prepare a project making it possible for tens of thousands of students to spend their leisure time next summer in both industrial plants and on farms.

To prevent further pollution of the Caspian Sea, no permission will be given in the future for the establishment in the Caspian coastal areas of industries which cause pollution.

The prime minister then answered questions from correspondents. He was asked whether the issue of political liberties and the expansion of the open political atmosphere has caused the government to lag behind in its implementation of projects. The prime minister said: This issue has in no way affected the implementation of projects, and, of course, in view of the shah's orders given on the occasion of the anniversary of the constitution, many heavy duties and responsibilities have been placed on the shoulders of the government and party organizations. We ought to make greater efforts to deal with these.

In answer to a question on the upcoming elections of the two houses, Mr Amuzegar said: In view of the shah's orders, the upcoming elections will be 100 percent free; the Rastakhiz Party organizations will nominate their candidates in accordance with the party charter. If, somehow, there are people who put themselves forward as candidates outside the party organizations, the votes given to them will be counted on the basis of the shah's orders.

The prime minister then said: The Rastakhiz Party organizations ought to focus their efforts on whether or not the party candidates are the people's trusted representatives and whether or not the principles of their thoughts are in line with the ideas of the Rastakhiz Party.

With regard to the need for reviewing laws, the prime minister referred to the shah's orders and said: Although we want to open up the country's political atmosphere, there is a need for laws and organizations. The shah has very clearly stated that there are limits to liberties, and these limits are specified by law. The shah said the law will rule in relations between the government and the people. For example, concerning the freedom of assemblies and demonstrations, the constitution regards this as dependent on the approval of a special law. No law has been passed in this respect, and the government ought to present a bill to the two houses as to how the formation of assemblies should be conducted. In other words, the government needs to pass new laws.

The prime minister alluded to the reduced oil revenues and their sufficiency and said: The revenues coming from industrial exports and some of the agricultural sectors, and perhaps from the traditional goods, ought to compensate for the drop in oil revenues.

The prime minister then said: The production of cement will reach 14 million tons next year, and we will have no need to import cement. The prime minister added: The increase in production tops the government's list of priorities; exports come next. Greater production will reduce reliance on oil revenues.

[Amuzegar--begin recording] The shah issues orders that the elections will be 100 percent free; the open political atmosphere will be further enhanced. The point which is interesting in this context, which also received the shah's attention, is the link that exists between the country's economic development and economic power and its political expansion--from the viewpoint of individual liberties. In other words, political and individual freedoms in a society cannot be separated from economic freedoms in the sense that each individual should possess the minimum means to live. In my view, this was the point which was stated in the shah's orders: the comparison between today and the time when the rule of the Pahlavi dynasty began, and from the economic viewpoint the stage we were in then and the stage we are in today. [end recording]

BRIEFS

ATOMIC POWER STATIONS--Tehran, 7 August, PANA--The Atomic Energy Organisation of Niran is to build two atomic power stations in Halileh and Bandargah, 20 kilometres from Bushehr in the south of Iran, it was announced today. The atomic power stations will be built on 18,200,000 square metres of government and private land. The Atomic Energy Organisation will pay 200 million rials for the four million square metres of privately owned land it will purchase. [Text] [Tehran PARS in English 1351 GMT 8 Aug 78 LD]

AFGHANISTAN

TARAKI RECEIVES PUSHTUN LEADER KHAN 'ABDOL GHAFAR KHAN

LDT090156Y Kabul Domestic Service in Pushtu 1600 GMT 26 Jul 78 LD

[Text] The Directorate of the office of the Revolutionary Council reports:

At 1100 today at the People's House Nur Mohammad Taraki, secretary general of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, received Khan 'Abdol Ghafar Khan, the great leader of the Pushtun people, while accompanied by Nezamoddin Tahzib, minister of border affairs, and Ajmal Khatak. Khan 'Abdol Ghafar Khan then had lunch with the president of the Revolutionary Council.

INDIA

SUPREME SOVIET'S BARKAUSKAS SATISFIED WITH INDO-SOVIET TIES

BK090151Y Bombay PTI in English 0139 GMT 9 Aug 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 9 (PTI)--Mr A.S. Barkauskas, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, yesterday expressed satisfaction at the growing ties of friendship between India and the Soviet Union.

Addressing a public meeting here to mark the seventh anniversary of the Indo-Soviet treaty of 1971, he said Mr Morarji Desai's visit to Soviet Union in October 1977 confirmed their continued development.

The relationship between India and the Soviet Union, Mr Barkauskas said, was an important factor of stability in international relations, particularly in Asia.

Moscow and Delhi, Leningrad and Bombay and Volgograd and Madras had become twin cities with the establishment of Indo-Soviet friendship, he said.

VAJPAYEE COMMENTS ON SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS, SOVIET TIES

OW081858Y Paris AFP in English 1809 GMT 8 Aug 78 OW

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 8 (AFP)--Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee today said there could be no normalisation in Sino-Indian relations unless all outstanding problems are solved. Mr Vajpayee, who was replying in a debate on foreign policy in the Upper House of Parliament, said friendship has to be on the basis of maintenance of territorial integrity. When we have ruled out the use of force, then we talk. We are not afraid to talk, but we would not talk out of fear, he said.

Referring to his forthcoming visit to China, the Indian foreign minister said the border problem would be uppermost in his mind when he went to Peking. He made it clear that we would not have friendly relations with any counntry at the cost of a third country.

Mr Vajpayee said Sino-Indian differences could be solved on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. I will succeed in my mission and there will be no bartering away of India's vital interests, he added.

The foreign minister also told the house that the Soviet Union had informed India that the Sino-Indian border in Soviet publications would in future more closely correspond to borders represented in Indian maps. We have yet to see the new maps, but we have been informed that the border in the western sector will be delineated by the conventional sign of an unestablished border. But in the middle sector and eastern sector the new delineation will correspond with our won, he said.

Mr Vajpayee denied that India tilted towards any particular bloc. There had been no deviation and distortion in India's concept of non-alignment.

About Soviet support for India, Mr Vajpayee said that whenever India was in difficulty, the Soviet Union had offered assistance. Indo-Soviet friendship had stood the test of time, he added.

On relations with the U.S., he said a beginning had been made in improving them. There are differences, some of which are of a vital nature. But we are wedded to a policy of resolving all differences through negotiations, he said.

On the question of signing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, the foreign minister said we have refused to sign and would continue to do so. The treaty is unequal and discriminatory. We can never accept the treaty in its present form, Mr Vajpayee said, adding that India was not going to open its indigenous atomic installations for international inspection.

On West Asia, he said India would like Israel to vacate all Arab territories and also recognise the inalienable rights of the Palestinians to a separate homeland.

Mr Vajpayee reiterated India's support to the liberation struggle in Africa both materially and morally.

VAJPAYEE: SOVIET TREATY NOT AGAINST ANY THIRD COUNTRY

BK090807Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Aug 78 BK

[Text] External Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has said that India and the Soviet Union can help third countries in developing their economies. This can be done by building new industries and projects. Mr Vajpayee was speaking in an interview to the bureau chief of the Soviet radio and television in New Delhi.

Answering questions, Mr Vajpayee said the India-Soviet treaty of peace and friendship has become a factor of peace and stability in the region and in the entire world. He said it is not directed against any country.

DESAI ON PRC TRAINING OF EASTERN REBELS, VAJPAYEE PRC VISIT

BK090900Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Morarji Desai, assured the Lok Sabha today that law and order will be strictly enforced in Manipur. Intervening in the short-notice question by Mr Yaduvendra Dutt, Janata, and others, he said any revolt in region would be suppressed ruthlessly.

Replying to a supplementary, Mr Desai declared that the proposed visit of the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, to China is very essential and will not be cancelled. He made this statement when a member pointed out that guerrillas from the eastern region of the country are being given training by China and that in view of this Mr Vajpayee's forthcoming visit should be cancelled.

The prime minister told the house that the matter of China extending training to guerrillas will be discussed by the external affairs minister when he visits China.

The prime minister also assured the house that no one in the eastern region will be subjected to torture for nothing.

DESAI DISCUSSES PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR SPENT FUEL STORAGE

BK090902Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said that the United States has not yet agreed to reprocess spent fuel at the Tarapore atomic plant. Mr Morarji Desai told the Lok Sabha that there is no compulsion on their part under the original agreement to do it. The matter is still being discussed with the U.S. Government. Mr Desai admitted that because of the delay the problem of storing spent fuel has become acute. The United States has, however, agreed to provide the necessary technical inputs at their cost to enable the station to increase its storage capacity threefold. Mr Desai assured the house that there is no danger from the spent fuel if it is stored properly.

Mr Desai also informed the house that the agreement between India and France for cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy is very much in force.

About the heavy water plant in Baroda, he said it is expected to recommence production in October next year.

DELHI JUDGE SUMMONS GANDHI, OTHERS TO APPEAR IN COURT

BK081358Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The former prime minister, Mrs Gandhi; her cabinet colleague, Mr P.C. Sethi; and four others have been summoned by a special judge on the 23d of this month to answer charges on the jeep purchase scandal. The charges include conspiracy and criminal misconduct in buying a large number of jeeps for electioneering last year.

RAJYA SABHA PASSES PRESS COUNCIL BILL

BK081015Y Delhi ISI in English 0854 GMT 8 Aug 78 BK

[Text] The Rajya Sabha has passed a bill seeking to establish a press council to preserve freedom of the press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country. The council will consist of a chairman and 28 other members.

Replying to resumed discussion in the Rajya Sabha on August 7, Information and Broadcasting Minister Advani said that the bill is yet another important step to restore freedom of the press as promised by the Janata Party government. He was happy that broad outlines of the bill have been welcomed by all sections of the house.

Referring to a code of conduct for journalists, the minister said it will be evolved over a course of time. He also referred to some apprehensions voiced by some members that the code will be used to discipline journalists and said that these are understandable in light of the previous government's interference in the working of the press during the emergency. Advani said the press council will only have the right to admonish, censure and warn erring press. It will not have punitive powers.

Advani agreed with the members that ownership of the press by large industrial houses is a distinct threat to freedom. He said it is not enough to free the press from government control.

SRI LANKA

COMMISSION BEGINS INVESTIGATION OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT

BK0714517Y Colombo SUN in English 2 Aug 78 pp 1, 3 BK

[By Eustace Wijetunge]

[Excerpt] The special presidential commission yesterday began its long-awaited probe on the alleged misdeeds of the previous government--with a startling disclosure about a threat on the life of President J.R. Jayewardene, then leader of the opposition, and the efforts made by several top people to suppress the inquiry.

Senior Prosecution Counsel Mr. A.C. De Zoysa told the three-member commission that in this particular case Mr Jayewardene had complained that there was a threat made against his life. The director of public prosecutions [DPP] initiated an inquiry, and the CID [Central Investigation Division] took in a person for questioning.

Mr. A.H.M. Fowzie, then mayor of Colombo, who got wind of this, made inquiries from the DPP as to what the inquiry was about. The former minister of justice, Mr Felix Dias Bandaranaike, was then out of the country. When Mr Bandaranaike came back, Mr De Zoysa told the commission. The scene shifted to the Ministry of Justice.

The CID was summoned by Mr Bandaranaike and ordered that the person taken in for questioning be released. He was said to have been a supporter of Mr Sooriapperuma, who contested Mr Jayewardene at the Colombo West election. Further, Mr Bandaranaike gave specific instructions to the DPP not to initiate any inquiry on a complaint made by any member of the opposition without the prior sanction of the prime minister, Mr De Zoysa said.

The three-member presidential commission comprising Mr Justice J.G.T. Weeraratne, (chairman); Mr Justice S. Sharvananda and District Judge Mr K.C.E. De Alwis, began public sittings at the former Queen's Club at Bauddhaloka Mawatha yesterday.

The commission has been empowered to inquire into any misuse or abuse of power, corruption or political abuse or any malpractice committed by the prime minister or ministers or any public officer during the period May 22, 1970 and July 23, 1977.

Press Commentary

BK071457Y Colombo CEYLON DAILY NEWS in English 2 Aug 78 p 4 BK

[Editorial: "Presidential Commission"]

[Text] The presidential commission appointed to inquire into the misdeeds of the seven-year-rule of the previous regime began its sittings on the 1st of this month. The institution of such a commission has significant and far-reaching repercussions for the body politic not only in the present instance but also for the future as well. It has been characterised in certain quarters as a vendetta primarily designed to wreak vengeance against political opponents. This is not so. The intent and spirit of the inquiry reposed in the impartial and eminent hands of highly-respected men of the judiciary is to make a thorough investigation of the abuses of power, the malpractices and other injustices which have subverted and deformed the administration of this country, enriched many persons and victimised innocent citizens who could not find redress through the normal channels of justice. As the president pointed out on an earlier occasion, those whose hands are clean have no reason to fear; those who have totted up misdeeds in their public performances will be exposed and eventually punished.

The significance of the inquiry is quite clear. It is an attempt to cleanse public life, to check the abuse of power, corruption and misuse of public funds, interference in the judiciary and the subversion of the laws in the statute books. The sweep of the commission's inquiry is wide, covering a large number of powerful institutions and logically the activities of persons who held unchecked sway in that period. The gross abuse of power ran along bizarre lines and persons faced strange machinations.

Foremost among these abuses have been political victimisation, irregularity in appointments, transfers, promotions and termination of services. Scant regard was paid in many instances to the written law in the administration of certain public bodies, local authorities, the co-operatives and in the very administration of justice. Legality was pushed aside. In its place was paraded the oft-repeated objective of promoting the Bandaranaike policies; it was not long before such policies became synonymous with family bandyism, self-aggrandisement, and contempt for legality.

The inquiry covers a whole range of laws under which it is alleged injustices and abuses were committed. This includes the ceiling on housing property, land acquisition, land reform, the municipal councils' ordinance and the emergency regulations. Interference by those in high authority became the order of the day. A bludgeoning bureaucracy got into the act with alacrity and often what was supposedly carried out for public purposes turned out to be the paying off of private grudges or pure revenge.

About 1500 memoranda have been submitted and they have been closely examined. The commission had certain powers such as the authority to scrutinise bank accounts and inland revenue particulars; it can prevent persons necessary to the inquiry from leaving the country. Refusal to appear before the commission is an offence which can be reported to the Supreme Court. But it cannot impose punishments. It can only make its recommendations to the president.

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